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Australian Orchid Review



Royal Botanic Gardens
Melbourne

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A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE NATIVE ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

BY DAVID L. JONES

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Pages: about 480.

Size: 300 x 230mm

Publication due September 2006

Price \$75.00

Postage extra, \$10.00 within Australia.

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From the Editor's Desk



Laelia anceps would easily be one of my favourite orchid species and an ideal beginners plant. I have been accumulating various forms of this Mexican species for over 25 years and have amassed quite a large and varied collection, to the point that they dominate a large section of our bush-house space. Each winter we are rewarded with masses of flowers, as this is one orchid that guarantees to bloom every year. The range of colours and forms has been supplemented in recent years by on-going line breeding using selected clones with desirable characteristics. In this issue I showcase some of the newer cultivars and give some background to their history. Emphasis has been placed on the lavender to purple coloured forms, as well as some of the forms with striping on their petals. A future article will cover the white forms of this variable species.

Keith Ryan is one of the best growers of softcane *Dendrobiums* (hybrids derived from *Dendrobium nobile*) that I have seen. Keith is a Past President, Life Member and current Treasurer at the Parramatta & District Orchid Society and has grown orchids for a number of decades. In this issue Keith gives some of his practical tips to their successful cultivation. Their popularity is again on the rise as they produce an impressive and long lasting display in late spring, covering a range of colours.

Regular contributor Jim Cootes discusses a variable terrestrial species as it occurs in the Philippines.

Gary Backhouse, co-author of *The Orchids of Victoria*, has been very busy over the past few years travelling to exotic places around the world primarily to photograph flowering orchid species in the wild. The article in this issue talks about some of the plants that Gary found or was shown at a place known as Magic Mountain in Papua New Guinea. Gary's a bit of an adventurer and he recently told me of a trip, only a couple of months ago, to Ecuador – again to photograph native orchids. Whilst shooting a *Phragmipedium* species halfway up a mountain, things became a bit uneasy as the earth started to move and detonations could be heard not that far away. Turns out that Gary and co were on Tungurahua Volcano, a 5000 metre peak known for its sudden and violent eruptions. They decided to leave that area and just as well as there was a significant volcanic event a couple of days later, but that was nothing compared to the major explosive eruption that took place in mid July 2006, complete with deadly pyroclastic flows. I wonder if those orchids that Gary saw are still alive and kicking?

Jim Brydie, a master grower and Past President of both the Kuringai Orchid Society and Orchid SPECIES (NSW) tells of some new growing innovations he has seen first hand, and shares this information with readers. Jim has also been experimenting with some new (and some not so new) potting mixes for orchids and the results of this will appear in the AOR in an upcoming issue.

There are also notes by Alan Hope on some of the work and the role that the Australian Orchid Foundation plays as well as a number of cultural notes on various mediums used for growing orchids in and some of the new hardware that is available to help grow your plants just that little bit better.

On a personal note, thank you to the many people who expressed their best wishes to Louanne, Rebekah and I following the birth of our daughter Rachael Lyn Banks on 28th June 2006.

Enjoy the spring flowering season!

David P. Banks
Editor, Australian Orchid Review
davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

OUR COVER



Laelia anceps 'Louanne'

An example of one of the new cultivars derived from the line breeding of this Mexican species. See the feature article in this issue. Plant and photo: David Banks.



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Volume 71 — No. 4

August/September 2006

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Articles for publication and consideration should be sent to:
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All other correspondence to:
AOR Publisher,
Graphic World, 14 McGill Street, Lewisham, NSW 2049.

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Laelia anceps
forma *lineata*
'Neon Splash'



Laelia anceps
the Jewel of Mexico

Text, plants and photos David P. Banks



Group of *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata*

Laelia anceps would be one of the most popular and rewarding orchid species to enter cultivation. It is a vigorous growing plant that is a reliable bloomer each year and is an ideal beginner's orchid as well as an outstanding landscape plant in frost-free climates. By selecting a number of different forms and cultivars of the species, it's possible to have blooms of *Laelia anceps* from April through to August, an extended period of five months.

John Lindley first described this highly variable species in 1835 in the *Botanical Register*. Since that time, many "varieties" have been named in numerous books and journals throughout the world, to the point that over a century ago it seemed that every new colour variant that was found ended up with its own name. Many of these should in fact be simply referred to as cultivars. Today we have plants as cultivars, forms, varieties and subspecies. I won't go into the details of the taxonomy



Laelia anceps 'Chamberlainiana' (labellum detail)



Laelia anceps (typical example of the species)



Laelia anceps 'Chamberlainiana' (the real cultivar)



Laelia anceps 'Sanbar Gloriosa' FCC (plant Santa Barbara Orchid Estate)



Laelia anceps 'Irwins'

and classification of wild populations of *Laelia anceps* in this paper, as this was comprehensively covered in the excellent article by Gary Yong Gee, entitled "*Laelia anceps* – sorting out the confusion" published in the AOR 64(3):11-20 {June/July 1999}.

Laelia anceps is primarily an epiphytic species of the open forests that occasionally will colonise suitable rockfaces in quite exposed positions. *Laelia anceps* is almost always found in areas that receive quite strong sunlight. It is distributed in the mountains of the Gulf side of Mexico in the states of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Hidalgo, Querétaro, Puebla, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas and also into Guatemala (where it is uncommon).

Lavender is the most common colour form; however populations of *Laelia anceps* subsp. *dawsonii* invariably have white petals and sepals. There are cultivars that appear white but have the faintest of pink flushes, through various stages of pink through lavender to purple. There are also pure white (albino) forms, as well as individuals with splash-petalled, peloric and feathered flowers.

The purpose of this article is to showcase some of the newer cultivars that have bloomed in cultivation, many the result of deliberate line-breeding of the species. Primarily the most outstanding work has been undertaken in the USA by nurseries such as the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Carter & Holmes and Cal Orchid. There has also been the bonus of "improved" clones through unexpected desirable mutations which occurred during the meristem process.

Typical examples of *Laelia anceps* produce quite narrow segmented flowers on inflorescences that generally only have a couple of flowers. Some of the more superior forms today can have up to five large

(120mm) blooms on spikes about a metre long.

There are many plants labelled in Australia collections as *Laelia anceps* 'Chamberlainiana'. Quite a number of these do not fit the original description of what was originally described as a variety and awarded a First Class Certificate from The Royal Horticultural Society way back

in 1902. It was described as "a grand cultivar and the largest of all". Unfortunately there are those that put the name 'Chamberlainiana' to any plant that has large flowers produced on a long inflorescence. The telltale sign is in the labellum, which is large and most colourful with flared sidelobes. After seeing the famous *Laelia anceps* 'Sanbar Gloriosa'

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Laelia anceps 'Mendenhall' (plant Santa Barbara Orchid Estate)



Laelia anceps 'Bravo' (plant & photo: Don Brown)

FCC/AOS in bloom at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate (California, USA), and further discussions with "the orchid man" Paul Gripp, I am convinced that they are the same cultivar.

Laelia anceps 'Irwins' AM/AOS is another of the famous American cultivars that has been around for over 30 years, being awarded back in 1976. I have been unable to find out about the history of this plant, and do not even know if this is a "wild" cultivar. It's been in Australia for over 20 years now and I can remember buying a small division of it from Tamborine Mountain Orchids in the mid 1980's. It's one of the first of the cultivars to bloom in mid to late autumn and has darker, flatter flowers with broad segments and an outstanding and distinctive somewhat flared deep purple labellum. It's also a very vigorous plant. *Laelia anceps* 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS first bloomed in 1988 (awarded in 1991) and was the result of a spontaneous mutation found in a

group of normal plants produced by the Carter & Holmes nursery. It has larger flowers, and slightly wider segments than 'Irwins' and is certainly a very desirable flower. A number of equally high quality cultivars then sprung up in the 1990's but their origins are somewhat clouded. I have spoken to a number of "anceps enthusiasts" (plus seen the printed tags of some of the original plants) and it appears that there is a mix of plants that have been "improved" through the mericlone process, as well as seedlings derived from selfings of both 'Irwins' and 'Mendenhall'. Some of these include the cultivars 'Bravo', 'Cloudland' HCC/NSW (2000), 'Déjà Vu' AM/AOS (1997), 'La Reina' HCC/AOS (1993), 'Tierra del Fuego' AM/AOS (1996) and 'Ultimo'. The majority of these clones appear to have originated in the Santa Barbara region of California, many via James Rose of Cal Orchid. This style of the species has become one of the most popular with

many enthusiasts, nurserymen and collectors devoting a lot of space for their expanding collections of this orchid. A shadehouse full of *Laelia anceps* in bloom is an impressive sight.

These improved cultivars of *Laelia anceps* led to a further increase in their popularity and a renewed interest in line-breeding the species further. Many sibling crosses were made using the sister clones 'Irwins' and 'Mendenhall' with other unrelated cultivars as well as some of the already advanced progeny.

Being a big fan of *Laelia anceps*, I have always been on the lookout for different clones of the species, plus seedlings when they are available. When purchasing seedlings (and this goes for all types of orchids) if you really want a better chance of getting something a bit special, you need to buy multiples of a cross, not just the one seedling. Look at it like a lottery, the more tickets you have, the more chances of winning. Similarly, buying just



Laelia anceps 'La Reina' HCC (plant & photo: Don Brown)



Laelia anceps subsp. *dawsonii* 'Rachael'



Laelia anceps 'Lynette' (labellum detail)



Laelia anceps 'Lynette' (arguably the best of the coloured line-bred cultivars)

one seedling of a cross (but buying one each of a number of crosses) is like buying one ticket in a number of different lotteries. I flowered quite a number of seedlings of the sibling cross between 'Irwins' and 'Ultimo', and most were very nice, but one of these was simply outstanding. *Laelia anceps* 'Lynette' is finest of the deep lavender types that I have seen. It has not been shown to date, and produces up to three very large and flat blooms with a solid deep purple labellum. Photographs I have shown of this plant, named after my mother, have impressed growers and breeders here and overseas.

Another successful crossing was a combination between 'Irwins' (which now also has a fine reputation as a pod parent) crossed with a superior form of the white flowered *Laelia anceps* subsp. *dawsonii*. This produced a race of plants that are quite different to what occur naturally in the wild. They are also early flowering (starting mid autumn) and have flat pale to mid lavender blooms highlighted by a labellum that has a distinctive white disc in the centre of it. A feature I find most attractive. *Laelia anceps* 'Louanne' is the pick of these, followed by the very similar clone *Laelia anceps* 'Rebekah'. Another seedling showing a lot of potential is the very pretty *Laelia anceps* 'Lollypop'. There is obviously a lot of potential in using the different populations of plants to utilise the expanded gene pool. The white flowered varieties will be the subject of an upcoming article.

For those who like novelty types, there are the striped forms of *Laelia anceps*. The plants with striped petals have been called *lineata*, *striata* or *disciplinata* type. The

most accepted term for these has been as forma *lineata*, which I follow here. I have been told that *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata* 'Doris' is a wild plant, and one of the first of this type to enter cultivation. When selfed a small percentage of the progeny

(about 25%) maintain the stripes in the petals, whilst the others revert to more "normal" types. *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata* 'Tinonee Splash' is a result of the selfing of 'Doris' and on a larger plant may prove to be superior.

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Laelia anceps 'Lollypop'



Laelia anceps 'Lollypop' (labellum detail)



Laelia anceps 'Anzac' (one of the early flowering cultivars)

However the really choice striped types have come from the crossing of 'Doris' with 'Ultimo'. I bloomed well over a dozen seedlings of this cross, and most were fine forms of the 'Irwins' type, however I have lucky to bloom three excellent

and similar plants with a combination of outstanding form, colour and the feathered striping and splashing on the petals. Presently I believe that *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata* 'Neon Splash' is the pick of them with *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata*

'Autumn Splash' and *Laelia anceps* forma *lineata* 'Parramatta Splash' right on its tail. This style is very new in Australia and whilst maybe not one for the purists they certainly have a lot of horticultural appeal. These are fast growing plants with increased vigour over the original 'Doris'.

Laelia anceps var. *barkeriana* 'Royal Flush' is one of the darkest coloured forms of the species I have seen. It has been used a bit in breeding and has produced some fine progeny when mated with the "Guerrero" types (forma *chilapensis*).

Laelia anceps 'Compacta' is a plant that was imported by my father Graeme Banks OAM from Mexico in 1981. The pseudobulbs are crowded and rarely taller than 50mm with the upright inflorescences seldom over 30cm long with one or two mauve-pink flowers. Its lip has a yellow disc with red-purple veining and a darker purple mid-lobe. This cultivar has a compact growth habit with fairly typical flowers but shows potential as a pot plant or line breeding to reduce the invariably long inflorescences of the better cultivars.

The "Guerrero" types (correctly *Laelia anceps* forma *chilapensis*) are still fairly scarce in Australian collections. This type is generally characterised by having wide petals that attractively fade from white to lavender. *Laelia anceps* forma *chilapensis* 'Mini Guerrero' is a plant from the fine private collection of Norm Wieder of Santa Barbara. However, arguably the best clone in cultivation is the outstanding *Laelia anceps* forma *chilapensis* 'Sanbar Guerrero' AM/AOS (1985). This is a plant that Paul Gripp personally selected when in Mexico many years ago. It has pale pink sepals and broad pale pink petals that grade to a glowing rose-lavender towards the tips. The lip has a yellow throat with red-purple veining, the side-lobes are rose-lavender and the striking mid-lobe is solid velvet red to black purple. Interestingly, when awarded the AM the plant carried



Laelia anceps 'Louanne'



Laelia anceps 'Compacta' (wild plant ex Mexico late 1970's)



Laelia anceps form *lineata* 'Doris' (parent of many superior cultivars)



Laelia anceps form *lineata* 'Neon Splash' (labellum detail)

only two flowers, yet expert Santa Barbara grower Don Brown (who also has an outstanding and diverse *Laelia anceps* collection) last year bloomed it with five large flowers on one very long inflorescence. This clone has been used in a number of sibling crosses.

There is enormous potential for further line-breeding of *Laelia anceps* and some of the choice newer cultivars should be mericloned in the hope of more spontaneous and improved mutations. If the blooms are kept dry, they will last for about six weeks in pristine condition. In areas that experience wet winters, it is advisable to place the plants under cover to avoid spotting of the flowers and a reduced shelf life. If breeding using *Laelia anceps* as the pod parent, use fresh flowers (less than a week old). The apparent viability appears to drop off quite suddenly after this time. Pollen may be stored in the refrigerator for up to (at least) three years. I have no experience with frozen pollen but have heard of others' success with the pollen of complex *Cattleya* hybrids.

Cultivation

Laelia anceps is really an easily grown species that is ideal for the beginner as well as the seasoned enthusiast. Our plants have experienced temperature ranges from -2°C in winter to 47°C in summer. Thankfully (for us and the plants) these extremes are for only a short period, but it does show how tough these plants are. The more "normal" range would be 5°C to 35°C. During the extreme times, ensure that the plants are dry in winter, and that during summer heatwaves try to keep the humidity level high around the plants to avoid severe desiccation of the plants.

We grow most of our plants in 150mm and 200mm squat pots we purchase from the Orchid Pot Company in Port Macquarie. These sturdy and well-drained pots (designed essentially for *Dendrobium*



Laelia anceps 'Rebekah'



Group of *Laelia anceps* at Hills District Orchids, June 2003



Laelia anceps forma *lineata* 'Tinonee Splash'



Laelia anceps forma *lineata* 'Autumn Splash'

speciosum) are ideal for this fast-growing species. We use a bark-based mix (combination of "medium" and "large" grades, washed beforehand) with about 80% bark with the addition of 10% jumbo perlite and 10% river gravel. It is vital that the medium retains some moisture between waterings yet is free draining. Plants are grown on mesh benches under 50% shade-cloth.

I prefer to divide my larger plants of this species in late winter, after flowering, so to avoid damaging the brittle new roots that are invariably damaged if left till the weather warms up. Don't be in a rush to divide you plants though, as they look far more impressive when grown as specimens. Don't discard the older parts of the plant, as pairs of backbulbs readily strike in a fine bark mix or sphagnum moss.

If you prefer, plants may also be mounted on large sections of black treefern or virgin cork. Alternatively they may be tied onto suitable trees (those that

do not exude gum or shed their bark) in the garden.

The plants enjoy a lot of water throughout their growing period, from late September to March, which replicates what they receive in the wild. They do not require much water in winter, as the plants are in a period of dormancy after flowering, just enough to keep the pseudobulbs from shrivelling. Fertilise as you would for other orchids in your collection.

In Gary Yong Gee's 1999 article he quoted the weather pattern and temperature range as follows: "In their natural habitat, plants are subject to a rainy season from late spring till early autumn where they are drenched by heavy rains often for up to five hours during the late afternoon and evenings. By the next morning fresh winds from the mountains soon dry the plants, which grow vigorously in the full sun until the following daily storm. At the end of winter new roots form from the base of the pseudobulb, which is the time of the

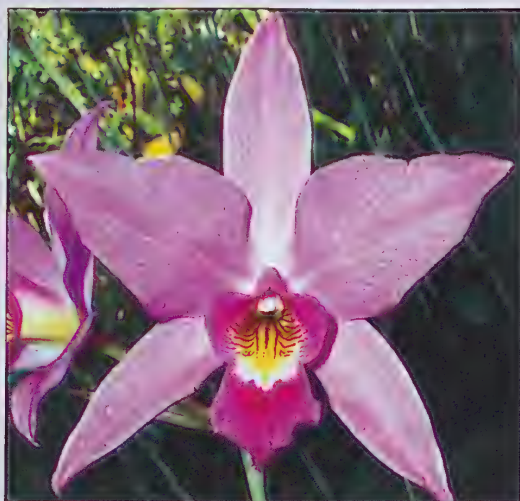
short rainy season – a fine fog-like rain that is usually not sufficient to saturate the plants. Temperatures can rise to 28°C or more during the summer and drop to 5°C and even below freezing in winter."

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following for discussions on and/or plants of *Laelia anceps* that assisted to my understanding of this species: the late Sid Batchelor, Don Brown, Ray Clement, Paul Gripp, the late Sandy Holmes, James Rose and Norm Wieder. I am also appreciative of Gary Yong Gee for further stimulating the interest in this species (and species orchids in general) by sharing his vast knowledge through his educational and informative articles. Special thanks to Parry Gripp (co-owner of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate) for providing me with his thorough compilation (and colour photographs) of American Orchid Society (AOS) awards granted to clones of *Laelia anceps*.



Laelia anceps forma *lineata* 'Parramatta Splash'



Laelia anceps var. *barkeriana* 'Royal Flush'



Laelia anceps forma *chilapensis* 'Mini Guerrero'



Laelia anceps forma *chilapensis* 'Sanbar Guerrero' (5 flowers on inflorescence, photo: Don Brown)

All plants grown and photographed by the author, except where noted.

A bit on trivia for 80's music buffs. The lead singer (Morton Harket) of Norway's most successful pop group, A-ha (who had a worldwide hit in 1984 with Take On Me) is an orchid enthusiast, whose group before A-ha was called "*Laelia anceps*"!

All plants grown and photographed by the author, except where noted. ■

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Laelia anceps forma *chilapensis* 'Sanbar Guerrero' (photo: Don Brown)



Laelia anceps forma *chilapensis* 'Sanbar Guerrero' (labellum detail, photo: Don Brown)



Laelia anceps 'Compacta' (ideal "pot plant" type with short inflorescences)

Eulophia a picture of

Text by Jim Cootes

During a recent trip to the Philippines in February 2006, to attend the Flora Filipina Expo, I was fortunate enough to be able to renew friendships with many people that I have met in past visits. I was also able to establish some new contacts and finally I was able to put faces to people that have previously communicated with me by email.

Since the publication of my book, *The Orchids of the Philippines* (Times Editions, Singapore), in 2001 I have had a steady stream of enquiries, as to the identity of many Philippine orchid species which people, not only from the Philippines, have flowered for the first time.

A number of the enquiries I receive come from orchid nurseries in the Philippines and these nurseries have been a source of constant amazement to me as to the vast number of species still to be found in the Philippines that appear to be undescribed.

Recently Anna Purificacion from Purificacion Orchids in Manila has kept me



spectabilis – variability

Photos by Anna Purificacion

busy with a constant stream of wonderful species. Luckily for me I have been able to identify (at least to genus) the plants I have been sent digital images of.

One of the most amazing species that I was sent is *Eulophia spectabilis*. The variation in the colour scheme of the flowers has to be seen to be believed, hence this short article.

Eulophia spectabilis is a terrestrial species that has been recorded from Sri Lanka, India to China, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Sulawesi, New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga and throughout the islands of the Philippines. It occurs from near sea-level, up to about 1,300 metres elevation.

The pseudobulbs are underground, about 3 cm in diameter, the stems bear about 5 leaves to 50 cm long by 5 cm wide. The inflorescence is about 1 metre tall and carries up to 25 flowers about 2-3 cm across. Only 3 or 4 flowers are open at any one time.

According to the late Jim Comber in his



Orchids of Sumatra (Natural History Publications Borneo, 2001) "Flowers of plants seen in Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia are dark reddish-green, the petals white apically, with some greenish and reddish striping towards the base, but those from Thailand and Burma are often scarlet or yellow all over."

I don't have any pictures of scarlet or yellow forms of *Eulophia spectabilis* but the images that I do have show how beautiful this species is as found in the Philippines. All the illustrated flowers are from plants from the Philippines.

Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to Cora and Anna Purification for sending me the pictures of *Eulophia spectabilis*, used to illustrate this article, plus a host of other wonderful species over the past few months.

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The Orchid Tray Company

This year's Mingara Orchid Fair saw the first appearance of a new Sydney based orchid accessory supplier. Samantha Stevens and Peter Meyer, members of several societies including Western Suburbs O.S. and Five Dock O.S. have started a new business called "The Orchid Tray Company".

The Orchid Tray Company sells lots of orchid growing accessories including a wide range of orchid trays (hence the name), pots and hangers, clips and tags, bark and moss, etc. Basically everything an orchid grower needs to equip them for easier orchid growing.

They have also designed several new products including a bark mounting kit with lots of exciting new products on the drawing board. One of their best selling lines was a Maximum and Minimum thermometer which was available for \$15.95.

This was a real hit and is a great accessory for any serious orchid grower. The next product that they will offer is a low cost pH meter and a moisture meter. Both will be a boon for the orchid fraternity.

Peter and Samantha are relatively new Orchid growers with less than ten years experience between them, but the orchid fraternity has welcomed this fledgling company into their ranks. Peter and Samantha are excited about their products and look forward to participating in more shows.

The Orchid Tray Company is also offering its services to Sydney metropolitan orchid clubs and societies who may not have an in-house resource. Peter and Samantha can be contacted via email at sales@orchidtrays.com.au and you can view the products of the Orchid Tray Company at www.orchidtrays.com.au ■

What should I do differently in Winter?

By Murray Shergold

Winter brings different challenges for orchids grown in different conditions around Australia. For those in the north there are many less challenges than for those in the south. In the north, winter sees dry conditions which are easier to control than the wet conditions of the summer/autumn period. For many growers in the southern half of Australia, winter brings wet, cold conditions for extended periods. This in turn may kill or set back many orchids, especially those that prefer a warmer environment in nature. How should we manage this?

First you need to understand the needs of each plant. This may involve buying books, searching the internet for info or asking your peers, as well as watching your orchids closely. If you have plants that prefer warmth – even only a little – you must learn a new discipline, namely, keep your hand off the hose! Just as extra water might make all the difference in summer, less water may be salvation for your orchid in winter. Work out what is the minimum amount of water each plant needs to get by without shrivelling, and stick to that for the winter months.

In this day and age we have the benefit of modern technology, which we can put to use for modest investment and little trouble. The use of an anti-

transpirant (Envy® is the most common one in Australia) can be a life saver. Spray your plants with an anti-transpirant once a month during winter, and you will be amazed at the difference it will make. Anti-transpirants are designed to protect plants from extremes of weather, be they frost or heat or strong winds, and are widely used in industry. They do not inhibit the plant's ability to photosynthesise and grow. They are non-toxic, neutral (neither acidic nor alkaline), and gradually biodegrade in sunlight. When Envy® is diluted ten-fold with water and sprayed on your plants monthly during winter, it will provide a degree of protection that will surprise you.

Please remember that anti-transpirants are great products, but they are not miracle cures. If you live in Canberra and are trying to grow hot-growing vandeaceous orchids, you will still need more than an anti-transpirant – go buy a heater and turn it on, and up! While this article is written for winter, the same applies in reverse where summer temperatures exceed the low 30's for extended periods – anti-transpirants will help maintain your orchids until cooler days arrive. ■

Murray Shergold
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Australian Orchid Foundation

Over the last two years the Australian Orchid Foundation (AOF) has been involved in reviewing its core objectives and in bringing these to the notice of the wider orchid fraternity.

The highly successful "Orchid Awareness Campaign", which drew on the generous input of many experienced orchid growers Australia wide, has now been adopted by many Australian Orchid Clubs and Societies. It has highlighted common issues confronting orchid growers and has provided a forum for input and discussion at club level. Feedback has been strongly supportive of the campaign, especially from many of the smaller and/or rural societies who felt somewhat isolated. Accordingly, the AOF will continue the program to help orchid growers better understand and enjoy their orchids.

Associated with the Awareness Program is the research function of the AOF. More recently the Foundation has sought to encourage more young people to become involved in activities relating to orchids whether it be of a scientific nature or a more general interest. Funds will be made available to support a range of activities including specific projects, attendance at conferences or associated activities, and support of relevant study programs.

Currently the AOF is also seeking expressions of interest from the wider orchid community to undertake projects of a general or scientific nature relating to orchids. The research scope is broad and includes areas such as orchid characteristics, plant distribution, growth and preservation, propagation, cultivation and promotion. It aims to encourage a range of projects and is not confined to purely scientific research.

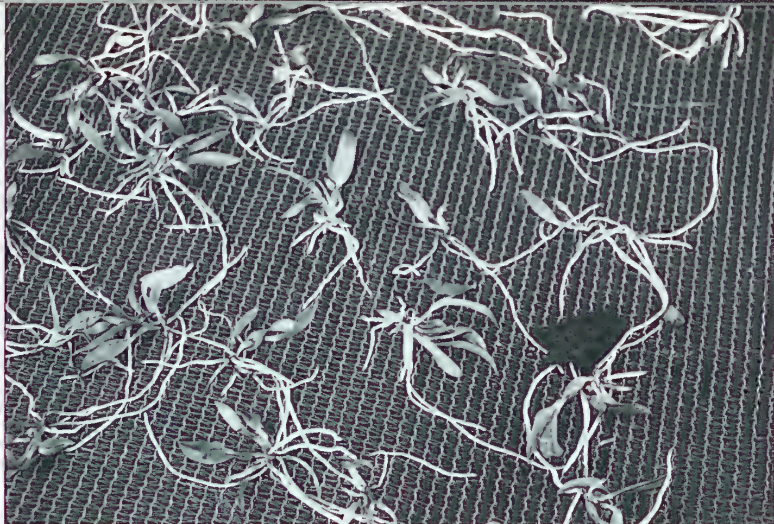
While research funding is an on-going function of the Foundation, this initiative by the Foundation is an excellent opportunity for interested people from a variety of backgrounds to apply for grants or support for a range of projects relating to orchids. Application forms and supporting material can be obtained from the AOF, 107 Roberts Street, Essendon, Vic 3040, phone/fax. 03 9379 3570.

Alan Hope

14 Leonard St, Deepdene, Vic. 3103

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Email: aehmelb@yahoo.com.au



Seedlings close up

Travelling North and seeing some New Innovations

Text and photos by Jim Brydie

In late November 2005, Cynthia and I headed North for our first "holiday" since I retired last year. I had always heard that you are never so busy until you retire but now I can vouch for it personally. Anyway, we booked a week on the Gold Coast and decided to meander our way up there by car, having a bit of look around as we went. There were a few "must do's" on our itinerary, such as visiting Murray Shergold's Easy Orchids and John Woolf's nursery at Toowoomba, as well as visiting O'Reiley's guest house in Lamington National Park, and checking out the Tweed Heads Orchid Fair. I was particularly impressed by a couple of innovations at Easy Orchids that may be of practical benefit and I want to share them with you.

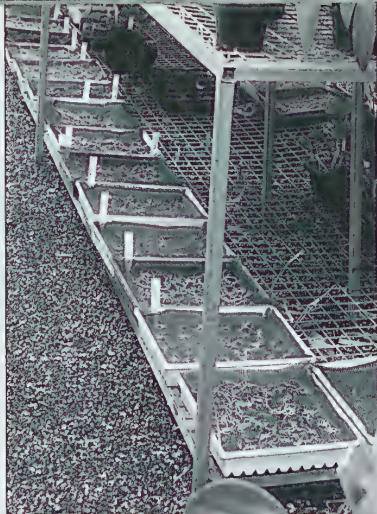
The first new trick is not really new, but it was all new to me however, and it looked

amazingly effective. What I am talking about is deflasking orchid seedlings and placing them bare root on a sheet of shade-cloth placed in a seedling tray. There is no media under the shade-cloth, just the bare plastic of the seedling tray, but they place the trays on the ash/gravel floor of the shadehouse under the benches on which hundreds of mature plants of all kinds grow. The pictures show a close up of the seedlings on one tray, and a row of trays sitting on the floor.

Murray tells me that they water the trays at least once a day and that they are experiencing practically no losses. The idea is that by not burying the flask roots in media, they remain viable and sustain the baby plant until the new air roots grow. I could see new roots already sprouting on the amazingly healthy little babies only



Seedlings on shade-cloth



Seedlings on shadecloth under benches



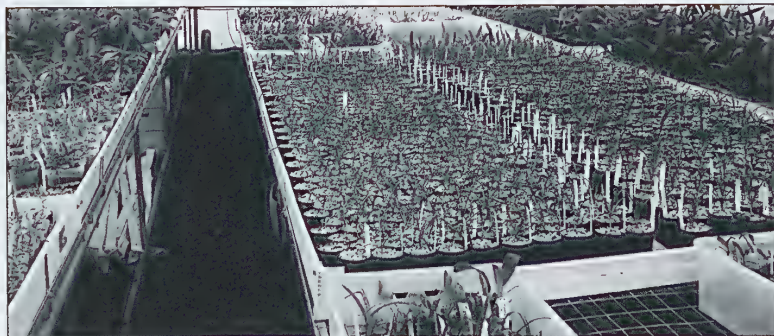
Phaius seedlings growing hydroponically

weeks after they had been deflasked.

Trevor Onslow from Kuringai Orchid Society said that he tried the technique at home and wasn't satisfied with the survival rate. However, we must consider that Easy Orchids is at Woodburn near Ballina and we may need to make adjustments for the difference in general climate as well as for the idiosyncrasies of the microclimates applicable at our homes. For example, perhaps we could use a thin layer of peat and perlite under the shadecloth to increase humidity.

The other innovation Murray has adopted is to use hydroponics for growing on seedlings once they are potted up. He has built long waterproof trays about 100mm deep that run the length of one of his tunnel houses. These 'flood trays' are simple affairs built from that plastic sheeting that looks like drinking straws glued side by side. The sheeting is cut into the sizes required and simply glued together with Silastic. The flood trays are supported underneath to take the weight and they slope gently downhill from one end to the other the length of the tunnel house. Seedlings in tubes or compots are placed in seedling trays which are packed in the flood tray. Most are in inert media such as perlite based mixes but that is not the point of this process.

At the low end of the flood tray, there are barrels under the bench to act as reser-



Batches of seedlings

voirs for the nutrient solution. A pump set on a timer pumps the solution to the high end, flooding the tray to the 100mm height and soaking all the plants. The flood of solution works its way down the length of the tray all the way back to the low end and drains back into the reservoir where the cycle can be repeated. I think Murray said that they flood the plants in a twice a day cycle but it may have been more often.

Above the reservoir barrels there is a shelf with smaller containers of various nutrient solution concentrates. An electronic controller constantly monitors the general reservoir and automatically injects

more concentrate when the general reservoir becomes depleted in one nutrient or another or more water. I believe that this is a standard hydroponics controller set up. All the plants in the hydroponics trays were absolutely thriving as you can see from the sample in the picture on the right. I must say I was impressed. If there are any other orchid growers who have any experience in growing plants hydroponically, perhaps they would like to share their experiences through the pages of the *Australian Orchid Review*.

Jim Brydie

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wishing to start this most rewarding hobby, or assist those wishing to enlarge their collections. All plants for sale are well established, and are competitively priced. Floral arrangements are offered for sale, and refreshments are also available.

We also cater for the needs of bus loads of enthusiastic orchid growers from other societies. We have known instances where one distant society will encourage members of other societies along the route to join their bus as it travels towards Mt. Coot-tha. (Bus drivers - please refer to Brisbane Refidex UBD map 158 L13 & 14). For further details, please contact the QOS Secretary, Maree Illingworth, phone/fax 07 3800 3213 or email: r.m.illingworth@bigpond.com

We look forward to seeing you there! ■

Thomas L. Jenkins
Hon. Show Secretary
Queensland Orchid Society Inc.
Phone 3366 2214
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ACR 126



Dendrobium nobile from India

Softcane Dendrobiums

by Keith Ryan

Because of increased interest in these wonderful orchids I have decided to write a few notes on my cultural methods. Softcane dendrobiums are quite easy to grow if a few basic needs are given. These plants have a definite growing and rest cycle with the growing period starting after flowering finishes in the spring, usually around the beginning of November, and continuing right through to the early autumn when the canes (pseudobulbs) mature and the terminal leaf is produced. Softcane dendrobiums have their origins in Asia and most of the hybrids in cultivation today have been derived from the variable species *Dendrobium nobile*.

Watering at this time should be at least daily and on extremely hot days sometimes watering at dusk can be a very welcome cooling down. It is almost impossible to over water these plants in the growing cycle!

Now the rest period that I observe is from early to mid April right through till flowering finishes around October and at this time fertiliser is stopped completely. It has been said that water should be withheld completely during the winter months. I find that I must water at least once a week to keep the compost just moist. As the plants are grown under 30% shade cloth all year round I have no control over rain watering the plants. When the nodes on the older canes start to swell they should be staked to the front of the plant for flower presentation in the spring, and as the flowers start to open this will add greatly to the weight of the cane hence the need for staking.

A number of important points to the successful culture of Softcane dendrobiums are listed below.

1. After flowering is finished no fertiliser is to be applied until the new growth

has grown to about 50 to 70mm long.

2. Fertiliser can then be started using full strength concentration and carried out right through the summer months finishing in April.
3. A so-called low nitrogen fertiliser is used such as Campbells Yellow or Peters Hi K as this helps the plants to grow in a more compact fashion and resulting in better flowering. If nitrogen fertiliser is used taller canes will result in poorer and fewer flowers.
4. Keikis (young new plantlets) will sometimes grow in place of flowers and there are a number of causes for this, the main one is anything that disturbs the root system such as root rot, repotting etc. will result in the plant growing keikis and these will quickly grow roots to replace the lost root system. This is the plants mechanism for survival and these should not be



Dendrobium nobile var. *cooksonianum*



Dendrobium Poem Girl

Dendrobium regium



Dendrobium Yukidaruma 'Bleeding Heart'



Dendrobium Lucky Gold 'Justin'



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removed until the plant re-establishes itself with a root system that can support it.

5. If fertiliser is applied during the rest period the plant will grow keikis that will not grow roots as the nutrients coming from the fertiliser will be enough to sustain them. These keikis will eventually grow roots and after about 12-18 months can then be removed from the plant and potted up.
6. Another cause of plants growing keikis is too much shade, these plants can take full sunlight and do better if grown in strong light. I have heard of one grower that hangs his softcane on the rotary clothes line in winter for extra light but takes them in as the sun goes down.
7. Compost in the past has been medium treated bark and rice hulls with some styrene foam. I am now trialling some plants in coconut fibre and bark with the addition of some styrene foam. However I believe that softcane dendrobiums will grow in anything as long as it is free draining.

So that's all there is to growing successful Softcane dendrobiums. All orchids require a balance of water, humidity, light and fertiliser for optimum growth.

The plants depicted in the accompanying images were grown by Hills District Orchids and photographed by David Banks.

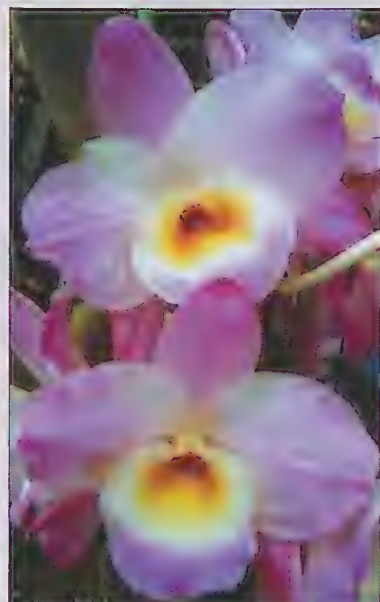
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Dendrobium nobile var. virginale



Dendrobium nobile from India



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Australian Natives

In the early morning sunlight there is the overpowering sweet scent of *Dendrobium falcorostrum* mixed with the musky *D. speciosum*. Add a trace of the sweet vanilla of *D. tetragonum* and you know it is the main flowering time for native orchids. While all are not as wonderfully scented as these there is an unmistakable odour to a collection at this time of year. The range of flowers is pretty impressive too.

This is the main time for shows, so go out and see the newest seedlings in bloom. Have a look at the massive specimen plants. And grab a few bargains at the sales table. Don't forget though that you will have to supply water and growing space so don't get too carried away. Flasks of seedlings are a good way to get some of the newest breeding at a reasonable price.

If you are going to display your plants, be sure that the racemes are not tangled but displaying the individual flowers as best they can. It is a bit late to untangle them once the flowers open. Make a list of the plants you are benching. Note what section they are going in so they can be benched quickly and, more importantly, collected quickly when the show is over. Soak plants well before taking them to the show, but be sure they are well drained. Larger plants will cope without water for a couple of days in the average hall, but smaller ones will probably need water or they will take a couple of seasons to recover. Air conditioned shopping centres will also dehydrate plants. At least they will have other growers' plants to help maintain humidity. Pests are easily passed around so be sure your plants are clean before benching them.

Go through your collection looking to cull natives that aren't up to scratch. Has the plant produce poor blooms for a couple of years? Is it weak and sickly and slow to grow? If these are hybrids or selectively bred species they are probably not worth the effort of supplying water or the bench space. Plant them in the garden if you must or bin them. Don't pass them on to unsuspecting newcomers.

When the blooms fade it is time to get started on the repotting and general plant care before the new growths get started. Leave the stems from the flowers until they are dead and dry. Plants put a lot of resources into them and will reclaim this. Remove the flowers as they finish because they can host fungi.

Check to see if a plant needs to be repotted or just cleaned up. Is there room for another season's growth or are the pseudobulbs already distorting the pot? Is the media still lumpy allowing adequate air flow around the roots. Look carefully at any plants in media you haven't used before to see how it is going. Tip plants out and have a look at the roots. They should be strong and healthy and have filled the pot if they were given enough time last growing season. Just give the pot a squeeze to loosen the plants and support it with your hand. You might need to add a little extra media when it is returned to the pot. If there are dead and soggy roots you will need to look at the drainage of the media by adding larger material that doesn't break down quickly or hold excess water. Any natives growing in poorly draining media will need to be repotted. If the mix is dry and

the roots papery, add finer material, but check the plant is getting enough water first.

Be sure to take precautions against spreading viruses and diseases by leaving sickly plants until last in the day. Wash hands (try gloves) between plants and sterilise tools regularly. Any pots being reused should be thoroughly washed and sterilised with bleach or something with antiviral properties. Any plants known to be infected with a virus should be disposed of in the garbage. They are too much of a risk with aphids and other munching pests to spread diseases. Not worth the effort of isolating them.

When repotting native orchids that have a lot of dead roots you can afford to be a bit ruthless, particularly this early in the growing season. Tear away any dead growths and their roots. Don't just move the lot along to the next pot or the dead roots will begin to break down and rot. Certainly don't remove the pseudobulbs and

leave the roots to harbour pests. After you have trimmed away unnecessary roots give the plant a good wash. A blast with a strong jet of water from a hose was always the best way to do this, but in light of water conservation maybe a bucket of water with some dilute fertiliser, and give the plant a good shake. You can also try a sharp tool, either a thin metal spike or even a sharpened chopstick, to comb out the roots so you can get a good look at what is there. Don't hesitate to shorten really long roots rather than twist them back up in the pot. The new growths will produce new roots as they mature.

This is also the best time to remount any plants as they will grow new roots to attach to the mount later. Consider the material you use as mounted plants are the quickest to dry out and need extra care. However, there are many native orchids that simply will not survive in a pot.

It would be nice to think everyone has the

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time to read this due to rain keeping them indoors – but outside there's flowers to enjoy and work to do.

Cattleyas

Winter is now here and if you live in the southern states and do not have a heated house your cattleyas will be in a near dormant stage. If you are lucky enough to have a heated house keep the night temperature at a minimum of ten degrees Celsius. If not, well, make sure the plants are kept in a sunny position out of the prevailing winds. If possible, that is if you have the room, hang your plants up high to get maximum light, which they like during the winter months.

If plants come into bloom during winter, try to keep the flowers dry. Depending on the weather conditions you will find watering every seven to ten days should suffice. The plants will require very little nutrients during this time. Once the weather starts to warm you can start to apply a small amount of nutrients. Parts of Queensland and the north coast of New South Wales will notice growth before the southern states. During this growth period I prefer to use an organic fertiliser. This helps to put friendly fungi back into the growing media. The ideal fertiliser would be MAJOR CARP. Use every fifteen to twentyone days at 3ml per litre of water. This is a very light rate, as one does not want to burn new roots. Water just before applying and water four or five days later. You could mix a little SUPERTHRIVE in with the CARP to get growth moving.

Always check for **mealy bug** and **scale**. If only a small infection spray with ANTI SCALE® or if you do not want to use a toxic compound, use ECO OIL® or a mixture of NATRASOAP® and SPRAYTECH OIL®. Follow directions on the container. It is important to mix the NATRASOAP® and the oil together before mixing in the spray container.

Cymbidiums

Now is definitely *Cymbidium* time. The king of flowers are now out in all their glory. At the orchid shows, the public look at them in all their glory, standing up straight and wonderful. Have you noticed how good the seedlings are these days? The hybridisers seem to be getting better and better at their job. Do yourself a favour and go out and buy yourself a few seedlings. One should do this at least four times a year! Remember, tomorrows champions will come from these little seedlings!

The most important job for the cymbidium grower now is to keep the spikes growing up nice and straight. Keep the snails away with a few snail pellets in each pot. Watch your watering. Keep plants just damp – not wet, during winter. Water only in the morning on sunny days. Fertilise weekly with PETERS EXCEL Hi K or HSO 12 or MERRI FERT is also ideal during the flowering months. Don't forget flowering plants need calcium. A monthly application of BIOMIN CALCIUM helps to give the flowers good texture and the racemes a bit of body. Agro Bests AGRODEX K35 (KDL) is a

handy nutrient supplement if you find that your flowers lack depth of colour or size. It has 35% available potassium. Use as a foliar spray. DO NOT APPLY IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY. Early morning or late in the day are the best times. According to the manufacturer, their recommendation is four to 6 mls per litre of water. I feel two or three mls per litre of water every seven to ten days as a foliar application should be sufficient. NOTE: This product is now called AGRODEX K35. As stocks run out this will be its new name.

Watch for aphids. If present spray with CONFIDOR®. It seems to do a good job without marking flowers.

Now is the time to start thinking about mixing up your compost in readiness for the oncoming potting season. It is good to let the brew mature to get all the friendly fungi moving and to have the wood residual in the mix treated for nitrogen draw down, and most important to get rid of the nasty toxins that can lurk in the mix. As most people use bark as the main component of the mix, some added nitrogen will be extremely beneficial. Don't forget to check the pH of the mix. If too low don't forget to treat with lime and dolomite. For orchids to the pH use dolomite 2 parts to lime 1 part by weight (not volume). This gives you a 3:1 Ca, Mg ratio. One gram of this mix to 1 litre of mix, will raise the pH one half unit.

Some growers use the following formula to treat their bark. To each cubic metre of bark add the following:

- 2.5kg Urea;
- 1.0kg Superfine super phosphate;
- 0.5kg Iron sulphate.

Moisten heap after mixing. Turn heap over after three weeks – moisten. After six weeks check pH and adjust as calculated in the last paragraph.

Mix well, check pH next week. If OK it is ready to use. Some growers like to use a C.R.F. with a nine month release with an N-P-K of 18+2.6+10+T.E. (trace elements).

If possible MICROMAX® is a very good slow release trace element mix that is mixed in the potting media for use with cymbidiums. DO NOT USE ABOVE RECOMMENDED RATES AS READ ON CONTAINER (rate for potting mix i.e. for cymbidiums is 1kg per cubic metre of mix). Mix in just before using with the C.R.F.

Paphiopedilum

Routine culture during late winter is much the same as for the previous few months. Plants should be watered only when moderately dry and given some weak Aquasol immediately after every third or fourth watering. Watch the weather – the westerly winds which characterise this time of year can dry plants out quite quickly. Watering is best done during early morning.

Paphiopedilums benefit greatly from annual repotting. The slight shock of repotting encourages the growth of a new crop of roots which may otherwise not appear. The best time for repotting is from mid-September until late November.

The potting mix should be prepared a few weeks before use; this allows the bark to begin

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breaking down – a condition which your Paphs. will appreciate.

Whilst Paphs. can be grown successfully in a variety of materials, I have had best results using mixtures based on bark. A very good mixture consists of the following:

Pine bark (approx. 5-10mm)	80%
Charcoal (approx. 5-10mm)	20%
Add to this:	
Sel Grit (granular limestone) or bird grade shell grit	2%
Hoof & Horn Meal (or, at a pinch, Blood & Bone)	1%

Wet the bark and charcoal with normal strength Aquasol, add the other ingredients and mix thoroughly. The mixture should be kept damp (use water for here on) until ready for use and must be used fairly wet. If you cannot store the mixture in an area free from earthworms and other vermin, it may be better stored in open plastic bags. If available, about 10% coarse river gravel can be added; the weight of this helps prevent the pots from tipping over.

If you have only a few plants, or all this sounds like too much trouble, your local orchid nursery may be able to supply a similar mixture. When buying potting mixtures always make sure they do contain plenty of nitrogenous fertiliser (have a good sniff) as bark alone contains very little that the plants can feed on.

Squat plastic pots are the most suitable for Paphiopedilums, particularly those with domed bottoms and plenty of drainage holes – not only for drainage but for aeration. A pot should be chosen which will comfortably hold the roots. The plant should be potted firmly with its base about 12mm below the surface. If the plant is wobbly, stake it. Do not use Osmocote or the like on Paphiopedilums.

When dividing Paphiopedilums I always try to leave two flowered growths plus whatever newer growths are ahead of these. The older flowered growth can be “back cut” and left in the pot during January.

Newly potted plants are simply placed on the bench and watered and fertilised as before. The plants do not need to be widely spaced. Incidentally, open benching (say 3 x 1 Weldmesh) is far preferable and gives much better results than the solid benching once favoured.

Phalaenopsis

Watch the watering during the winter period. During this period of time, plants can dry out quickly and with a heater going the humidity will drop. On warm sunny days you could dampen the floor in the hothouse with water to help raise the humidity. You may have to water your plants every four to five days. One could drench the plants every five to six days and in between give the floor a drench and the plants a misting.

Keep the vents open on good sunny days. Air exchange is important. Fertilise weekly with a good general purpose fertiliser such as PETERS GENERAL PURPOSE. This will keep the flower spikes moving at this time of year. If you don't, you will get short spikes with a low flower count.

Watch for the BROAD MITE under the leaves. In the old days, one would use endosulfan with excellent results, but now it is unavail-

able to the hobbyist, (very toxic). Now, most growers of *Phalaenopsis* would be using KELTHANE® or ECO OIL®. So be aware, once spring arrives they will be around.

Vandaceous

Watering:- Water well in the mornings every 2 or 3 days. Avoid watering on cold or bleak days. Root systems should be kept moist and may require misting on dry, windy days particularly if hanging on wires only or potted in bare baskets or pots.

Light:- Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas need 50% shade. Outside vandas need very little cover at this time of year.

Fertiliser:- Fertilise once per fortnight during August using a low nitrogen fertiliser.

Increase to weekly during September, changing to a high nitrogen fertiliser and alternating over a 4 weekly period:-

Wk. 1. Inorganic high nitrogen - Campbells B, Aqua-feed or Aquasol.

Wk. 2. Foliar/Trace elements - Wuxall.

Wk. 3. Inorganic high nitrogen - as for week 1.

Wk. 4. Organic - Fish emulsion or Nitrosol.

Pest Control:- Continue to fungicide every 6 weeks. (e.g. Daconil, Mancozeb, Wettable Sulphur or Ridomil MZ WP).

Spray with Diazanone, Malathion or Pyrethrum if signs of insect damage or scale.

Watch for mites and treat as necessary.

If you use Wettable Sulphur as a fungicide it is also a good miticide.

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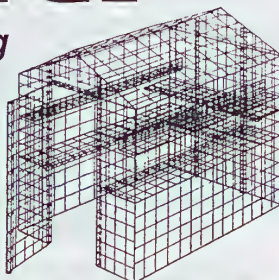
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Octarrhena aff. platyrachis

Magic Mountain, Magic Orchids!

Text and photos by Gary and Judy Backhouse

It was October 2004, at the annual meeting of the Australian Orchid Foundation, and Gary had just finished giving a presentation on the orchids and other flora and fauna we had seen on a recent trip to Costa Rica. Eric Wilde, a director of the AOF, came up to Gary after the meeting, and suggested the idea of preparing a similar presentation on the orchids of New Guinea. Despite Papua New Guinea being our closest neighbour, it is still a remote place and a mystery to many Australians. New Guinea is also a place rich in orchids, and Peter O'Byrne, in his book *Lowland Orchids of Papua New Guinea*, has described New Guinea as 'the last great frontier for orchids'. The AOF was keen to

promote a greater understanding of New Guinea's orchids, so we prepared a proposal for the AOF to consider.

With the support of Eric, Helen Richards and Gerald McCraith from the AOF, Paul Slade from the Pacific Biological Foundation, and Trans Niugini Tours who enthusiastically embraced our proposal, in April 2005 we left on assignment to photograph orchids in the wild of Papua New Guinea. We visited a number of locations in PNG, from the lowlands to the highlands, but it is in the cooler, perpetually wet and shadowy mountain forests where the greatest diversity of orchids occurs. One memorable place we visited was Magic Mountain, a small

mountain near Mount Hagen in the central highlands, so called because (on a clear day!) its rounded shape looks the same no matter from what direction it is viewed. We stayed at a small rustic guest house at about 2,000m altitude on the slopes of Mount Hagen run by Mr Pym Mamindi and, with the help of eight men and boys from the local village acting as our guides, spent our time negotiating the maze of steep muddy hunting tracks through the forest searching for orchids.

Upon arrival at Magic Mountain, the first orchid we saw was the impressively tall but decidedly ugly *Dendrobium prosthecglossum*, growing as a terrestrial like a hedge along the mountain tracks. This



Bulbophyllum intersitum



Bulbophyllum unitubum



Bulbophyllum unitubum

species grows to over 1 m tall, but has small, poorly-opening and self-pollinating brown and white flowers. Closer inspection of the grassy verges revealed several surprises – *Spiranthes sinensis*, *Pterostylis papuana* and a pale blue *Thelymitra* species, the fully developed flowers firmly closed due to the chill mountain air. These were orchids similar to species we could see near our home in Melbourne, over 3,500km to the south! Other plants growing amongst the grasses and sedges included a *Phreatia* species, *Dendrobium sophronitis* (*D. cuthbertsonii*) growing as a terrestrial, and the beautiful *Cadetia* aff. *citrina*, with its masses of small white flowers. On rock faces and nearby trees we found the showy violet form of the extremely variable *Dendrobium vexillarius* growing in abundance.

It was when we walked from the grassland and scrub into the gloomy interior of the lush green montane forest that the real wealth of orchids became apparent. The highlands forest is impossibly rich in orchids, and many species of *Dendrobium* grow there, including *D. alaticaulinum*, *D. caliculimentum*, *D. aurantiroseum* and *D. dichaeoides* with its intense purple flowers. Higher into the wet forest, *D. subclausum* with its bright orange and yellow flowers literally festooned the trees, and the deep orange flowers of *D. wentianum* glowed like beacons in the gloom of the forest. Lower down the mountain, at around 1,800m, red and pink forms of *D. lawesii* were growing in abundance on clay banks and lower trunks of trees. Another big genus is *Bulbophyllum* and we saw many species in flower, from the



Cadetia aff. *citrina*



Ceratostylis species

small striped flowers of *B. intersitum* to the large brown flowers of *B. unitubum*.

While the larger showy flowered species of *Dendrobium* and *Bulbophyllum* certainly caught our attention, it was the myriad of smaller-flowered species that held our intrigue. Among the more memorable were *Peristylis triaenus* with its distinctly tri-lobed labellum, the reddish orange flowers of *Liparis altigena*, and

Liparis aff. *weneri*, its attractive lime green flowers with a deeply fringed lip. Other miniature gems included *Oberonia* aff. *arcuata*, and the terrestrial white-flowered *Calanthe camptoceras* and *Calanthe engleriana*, with its distinctly lobed labellum. We saw several species of *Aglossorhyncha*, which look like small epiphytic shrubs until one takes a closer look and realises that what look like dead



Calanthe engleriana



Dendrobium alaticaulinum



Dendrobium dichaeoides



Dendrobium subacale



Dendrobium lawesii

leaves along the stems are actually orchid flowers. Most species have dull brown or green flowers, although *Aglossorhyncha* aff. *biflorum* has lovely white flowers with a contrasting green lip.

There were some wonderful sights in the forest, including seeing three species of *Octarthenia* with their tiny orange flowers, flowering on the one tree, and coming across patches of hundreds of

plants of the tiny white flowered *Phreatia nutans* and *Phreatia gangapensis*, growing and flowering on the lower tree trunks. Perhaps the strangest orchid we saw was the bizarre, leafless *Taeniophyllum robustum* with its mats of roots looking like a strap-leaf fern, and attractive, glossy orange-brown flowers.

For the two of us, more used to the terrestrial orchids of southern Australia, the



Dendrobium vexillarius



Dendrobium wentianum

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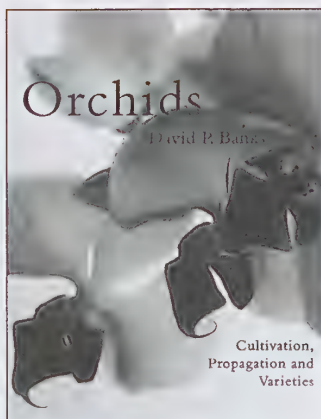
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"Orchids" is an irresistible volume for all orchid lovers that offers practical advice to ensure no more flowerless stalks, no more browned and brittle leaves and no more dead and dying plants. Indeed, "Orchids" offers rare insights and comprehensive advice on how to keep your orchids vibrantly and beautifully healthy.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommend to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

132 pp.
242mm x 168mm
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COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

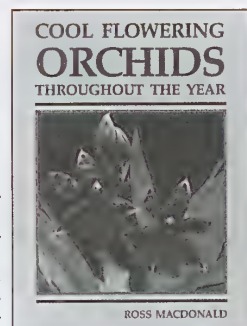
Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation.

Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere.

This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

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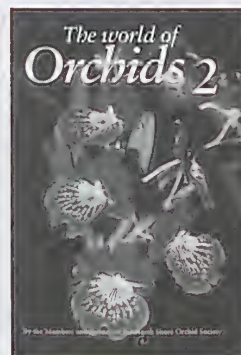
THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS - 2

The World of Orchids - 2 has been written by members and friends of the North Shore Orchid Society about orchids grown in Sydney and its environs, and we are indebted to those people for their time and effort.

It has been produced to cover a large range of genera to help not only the novice, but also the experienced grower in their present fields of interest, and to tempt and encourage them to try other genera.

It should be pointed out that the methods of culture used by the authors are those which they themselves have found successful. Growers should try any changes to their own culture gradually and on a few plants first, as orchids respond differently under different conditions.

80 pages, colour and B&W.



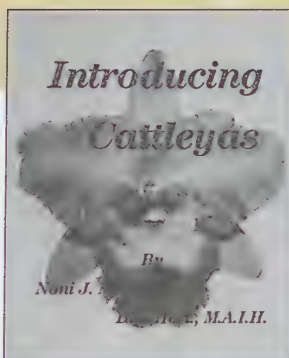
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INTRODUCING CATTLEYS

Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shade-house conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

24 pages, B&W.



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was \$7.15 RRP (Incl. GST) PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING

GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

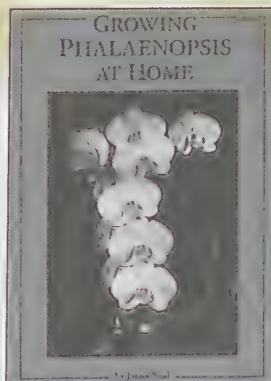
Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

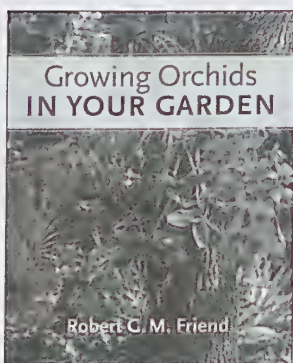
The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages, colour and B&W.



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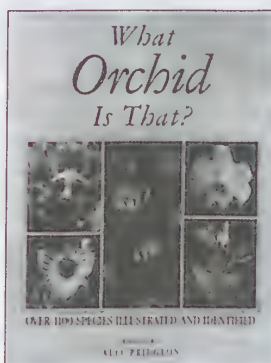
Hybridising, including intergenerics, is dealt with in detail - most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

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The alphabetical section, "Orchids A-Z", includes descriptions, names and synonyms, geographic distribution, notes on culture, and photographs drawn from collections around the world, showing the best-known species in cultivation.

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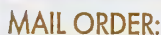
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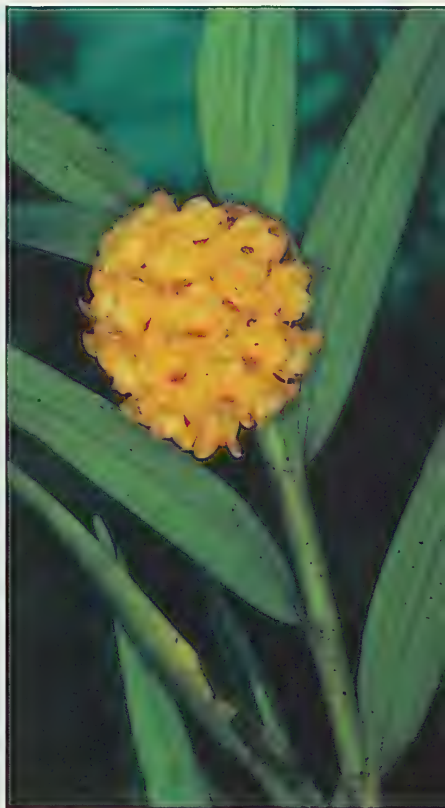
Dendrobium wentianum



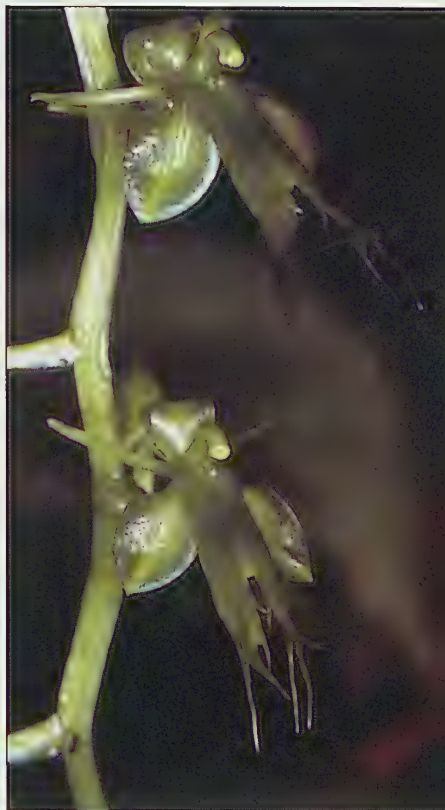
Aglossoryncha aff. *biflorum*



Glomera species white



Glomera species orange



Liparis aff. *wernerii*



Oberonia aff. arcuata



Oberonia aff. arcuata



Glossorhyncha species

abundance and diversity of orchids of many strange genera in the mountain forests was just bewildering. There were many species we had no hope of identifying, especially the masses of *Glossorhyncha* and *Agrostophyllum* with their showy crystalline white flowers growing throughout the forest. Almost overwhelmed by the hundreds of orchids around us, we spent the time searching for, photographing and simply enjoying the lush diversity of orchids in this special part of the world. Magic Mountain certainly is a magic place for orchids. In two days we explored a variety of forested habitats from about 1,500m up to 2,800m altitude, saw and photographed perhaps 100 species in flowers and no doubt missed

many more. We had a great time in the company of the local landowners, who prepared a traditional mu mu feast for us on our last night there. Our thanks to the Australian Orchid Foundation, the Pacific Biological Foundation and Trans Niugini Tours for supporting this trip; Phil Spence for invaluable information on PNG prior to the trip; Phil, David Banks and Mark Clements for help with orchid identifications; and Pym Mamindi of Magic Mountain Guesthouse and the landowners of Magic Mountain for showing us their wonderful country.

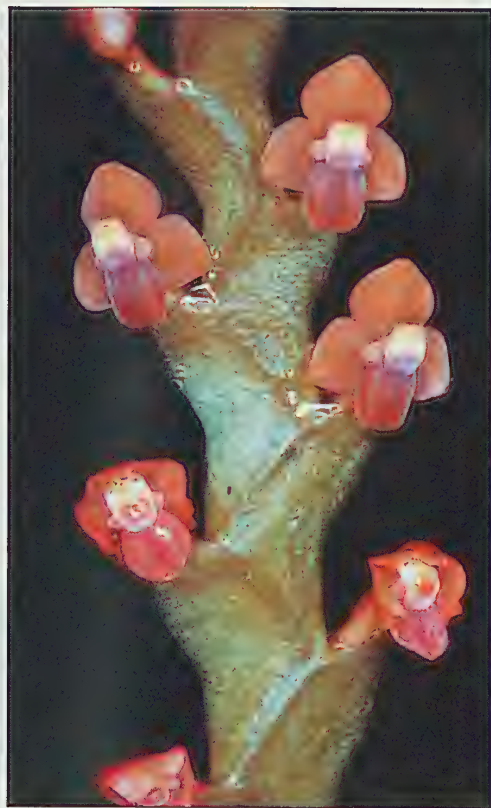
Gary and Judy Backhouse
Greensborough, Victoria
email: outbackorchids@hotmail.com



Gary and local landowner guides



Forest habitat Magic Mountain Inset: Preparing mu mu feast



Octarrhena aff. platyrachis



Peristylus triaenus

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Orchid Hybrid Honours Laura Bush

A new orchid hybrid, grown and registered with the Royal Horticultural Society by Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc, of Powhatan, was presented to Laura Bush at the United States Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C. The event took place on Tuesday 9th May 2006 as part of the "First Lady's Luncheon" which is an annual gathering of the wives of the U.S. Senators. Assisting in the presentation was the garden's Executive Director Holly Shimizu.

The new orchid hybrid is a classic *Cattleya* with medium sized white flowers, a contrasting purple throat, and a sweet fragrance. Designed to bloom twice a year on a compact plant, the official botanical name is *Brassaelioccattleya* Laura Bush. It is a hybrid between *Cattleya walkeriana* and *Brassaelioccattleya* Good News.

'First Ladies have a long tradition of being honoured with



Laura Bush with the orchid named after her

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Cattleya orchids which dates back to the 1940's' said Art Chadwick, President of Chadwick & Son Orchids. Previous recipients of Chadwick hybrids include former First Ladies Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barbara Bush as well as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Art Chadwick,

Chadwick & Son Orchids

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DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
New South Wales				
10-13 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Central Coast-Hunter Region Cymbidium Society - Winter	Tuggerah Supa Centa Bryants Drive & Wyong Road, Tuggerah
12 August	9.00am-3.00pm	Winter	Berowra Districts OS Winter Show	Coles Asquith
15-19 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Leisure Coast OS Spring Show	Westfield Shopping Centre Warrawong
18-19 August	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	St Ives Orchid Fair	St Ives Showground
20 August	9.00am-3.00pm			Mona Vale Road, St Ives
18-19 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Sapphire Coast OS Winter Show	Town Hall Bega
20 August	9.00am-1.00pm			
21-23 August	Club Hours	Spring	Macleay Valley OS Early Spring Show	Macleay RSL Club Macleay
24-27 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Central Coast-Hunter Region Cymbidium Society - Spring	Lake Macquarie Fair Mount Hutton
24-27 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Western Suburbs OS Winter Show	Ashfield Mall 260A Liverpool Road, Ashfield
25 August	2.30pm-5.00pm	Spring	Manly Warringah OS	Mona Vale Memorial Hall
26 August	8.00am-5.00pm		Mona Vale Spring Show	Pittwater Road, Mona Vale
27 August	9.00am-3.00pm			
31 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Hawkesbury District OS Spring Show	Richmond Market Place March Street, Richmond
1-2 September				
31 August-1 Sept	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Nambucca Valley Spring Orchid Show	Nambucca Entertainment Centre Ridge Street, Nambucca Heads
2 September	9.00am-3.00pm			
4-8 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Eastwood & District Orchid Circle - Spring Show	Macquarie Shopping Centre Waterloo Road, Marsfield
6-8 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Newcastle OS Spring Show	Jesmond Shopping Centre Blue Gum Road, Jesmond
9 September	Closing 4.00pm			
6-9 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Boolaroo OS	Belmont Citi Centre
6-9 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Cumberland Orchid Circle Spring Show	Winston Hills Mall Caroline Chisholme Drive, Winston Hills
7-8 September	9.00am-8.00pm	Spring	Coffs Harbour OS Spring Show	Park Beach Plaza Shopping Centre Coffs Harbour
9 September	9.00am-2.30pm			
7-8 September	8.30am-9.00pm	Spring	Tweed Districts OS TDOS Spring Show	Tweed City Shopping Centre Tweed Heads South
9 September	8.30am-3.00pm			
7-9 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Sutherland Shire OS Spring Show	Swanes Nursery 80 Port Hacking Road, Sylvania
10 September	9.00am-3.30pm			
7-9 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	North Shore OS Spring Show	Willoughby Civic Centre Victoria Avenue, Chatswood
10 September	9.00am-4.00pm			
7-10 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Central Coast-Hunter Region Cym. Soc. - Mt Penang Australasian Flora Festival	Mount Penang Gardens
7-10 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Berowra Districts OS Australian Spring Flora Festival	Mount Penang Parklands
7-10 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Ballina & Districts OS	Ballina Fair Shopping Centre, Ballina
7-11 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Campbelltown & District OS Spring Show	McArthur Square Cellcar Road, Campbelltown
8 September	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Eurobodalla Orchid Club Spring Show	Community Centre Museum Place, Batemans Bay
9 September	9.00am-5.00pm			
8-9 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Byron District OS Spring Show	Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
9 September	9.30am-3.30pm	Spring	Panania East Hills OS Spring Show	Panania Senior Citizen Hall Cnr Anderson Avenue & Pepper Street, Panania
9-10 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Blue Mountains & Penrith Spring Winter Show	The Melrose Hall cnr Great Western Highway & Park Street, Emu Plains
11 September	9.00am-4.00pm			
11-12 September	8.30am-7.00pm	Spring	Manning River OS Spring Show	Manning Hall Manning Street, Taree
13 September	8.30am-5.00pm			
14 September	9.00am-8.00pm	Spring	Cymbidium Club of Aust Spring Show	Lakemba Remembrance Hall 220 Lakemba Street, Lakemba
14-15 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Maitland & Coalfields District OS - Spring Show	Raymond Terrace Market Place Raymond Terrace
16 September	9.00am-3.30pm			
14-16 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	City of Lismore OS Spring Show	Lismore Central Shopping Centre Lismore
14-17 September	9.00am-Midnight	Spring	Five Dock RSL OS Combined Eastwood/Five Dock	Rhodes Shopping Centre
15 September	11.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Shoalhaven OS Spring Show	Presbyterian Church Hall Kingshorne Street, Nowra
16 September	9.00am-4.00pm			
15 September	11.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Woodburn OS Annual Show	Woodburn Memorial Hall Pacific Highway, Woodburn
16 September	9.00am-4.00pm			
17 September	9.00am-3.00pm			
16-17 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Camden Haven OS Annual Spring Show	Laurieton United Servicemen's Club Seymour Street, Laurieton
20-23 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	South Coast OS Spring Show	Corrimal Park Mall Princess Highway, Corrimal

SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
21-22 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Sapphire Coast OS – Spring Show	Twyford Hall, Merimbula
21-23 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Grafton District OS	Grafton Shoppingworld
21-23 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Manly Warringah OS Warriewood Spring Show	Centro Shopping Centre Jacksons Road, Warriewood
23-24 September	9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Illawarra District OS Winter Show	Legacy House 96 Market Street, Wollongong
23-24 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hawkes Bay OS Spring Show	Hibernian Club Cnr Nelson & Eastbourne Streets, Hastings
23 September	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Wagga Wagga OS	Sturt Public School
24 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Lake Albert Road, Koorinal
27-28 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Casino & District OS	Presbyterian Hall
29 September	9.00am-2.00pm		Spring Show	Hickey Street, Casino (same street as Fire Station)
7 October	9.00am-2.00pm	Winter	Southern Riverina OS Spring Show	Anglican Church Hall Princes Highway, Milton
7 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Woolgoolga OS – Annual Show	Yeates Hall, Woolgoolga
7 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Albury Wodonga District OS	Mirambeena Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.00pm		Aust. Inland Championship	19 Martha Mews, Lavington
10-11 October	Club Hours	Spring	Macleay Valley OS Late Spring Show	Macleay RSL Club Macleay
13-14 October	9.30am-5.00pm	November	Tweed District OS	Club Banora
15 October	9.30am-3.00pm		Club Banora Orchid Show	Leisure Drive, Banora Point
18-21 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Newcastle OS – Annual Show	Yeates Hall, Woolgoolga
19-22 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Western Suburbs OS Spring Show	Rockdale Plaza No 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive, Rockdale
21 October	10.00am	Spring	Orchid SPECIES NSW Annual Show & Auction	Community of Christ Neighbourhood Centre 10-14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills
26 October	8.00am-9.00pm	Spring	Northern Rivers Orchid Species Society Inc.	Lismore Shopping Square Cnr. Uralba & Diadem Streets, Lismore
27 October	8.00am-6.00pm			
28 October	8.00am-1.00pm			
28 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hawkes Bay OS – Sarcophilus Show	Taradale Town Hall, Taradale

ACT

23 September	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Orchid Society of Canberra	St Johns Church
24 September	Noon-4.00pm		Annual Spring Show	Constitution Avenue, Reid

Queensland

4-5 August	8.30am-5.00pm	Winter	Darling Downs Orc. Assoc.	Walsh's Seeds & Garden Centre
6 August	8.30am-3.00pm		Combined Orchid Societies	881 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba (op. K-Mart)
24-25 August	8.30am-9.00pm	Winter	Pine Rivers OS	Deception Bay Shopping Centre
26 August	8.30am-3.30pm		Winter Show	Deception Bay Road
25 August	8.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Soc. Spring Show	Memorial Hall Maple Street, Cooroy
26 August	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	North Brisbane OS	The Auditorium
27 August	9.00am-4.00pm		2006 Annual Spring Show	Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
26 August	8.30am-4.00pm	Winter	Logan & District OS	Logan Central Community Centre
27 August	8.30am-3.00pm		Annual Winter Show	Cnr Jacaranda Avenue & Wembley Road, Logan Central
31 August- 2 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Gold Coast OS Spring Show	Jupiters Pavilion, Parklands, Cnr Smith Street & Parklands Drive, Southport
1 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Nambour OS	Uniting Church Hall
2 September	9.00am-2.30pm		Spring Show	Coronation Avenue, Nambour
1 September	8.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Childers & Isis District OS	Childers Cultural Centre
2 September	8.00am-2.00pm		Spring Show	Churchill Street, Childers
6-7 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Townsville OS	Townsville Orchid Society Inc Hall
8 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Joe Kirwan Park, Charles Street, Townsville
7-8 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Lockyer Valley OS	Cultural Centre
9 September	9.00am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Laidley/Plainlands Road, Laidley
9 September	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Ipswich OS	Bundamba Primary School
10 September	8.30am-2.00pm		Spring Show	Brisbane Road, Bundamba
15-20 September	8.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Toowoomba OS Spring Show	St Pauls Lutheran Church Hall cnr. James & Phillip Streets, Toowoomba
16 September	9.00am-4.30pm	Spring	West Brisbane OS	Brisbane Botanic Gardens
17 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Orchid Spectacular	Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
16 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Rockhampton OS	Rockhampton High Assembly Hall
17 September	9.00am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Campbell Street, Rockhampton
16 September	8.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Eastern District OS	Wondall Heights State School Assembly Hall
17 September	8.30am-3.30pm		40th Anniversary Show	Wondall Road, Manly West, Brisbane
16-22 September	8.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Darling Downs Orc. Assoc.	Centenary Heights Assembly Hall
23 September	8.30am-1.00pm		Annual Spring Show	cnr. South & Ramsay Streets, Toowoomba
21-22 September	8.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Maryborough District OS	St Pauls Memorial Hall
23 September	8.30am-1.00pm		Annual Spring Show	Adelaide Street, Maryborough
28-30 September	8.30am-6.00pm	Spring	Atherton Tablelands OS Spring Show	Shop Main Street, Atherton

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
28-29 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Sunshine Coast OS	Pelican Waters Shopping Village
30 September	8.00am-3.30pm		Caloundra Spring Show	Caloundra
30 September	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Redlands OS	Donald Simpson Leisure Centre
			Orchid Charity Show	Bloomfield Street, Cleveland
8 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Bribie Island OS	Indoor Bowls Club Hall
9 October	9.00am-2.30pm		October Spring Show	First Avenue, Bribie Island
12-13 October	8.30am-9.00pm	Spring	Pine Rivers OS	Aspley Hyper-Market
14 October	8.30am-3.30pm		Winter Show	Gympie Road, Aspley
12-14 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mackay & District OS	Mount Pleasant
			Spring Show	Greenfields Shopping Centre
14 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Beauesert Districts OS	Drynam Pavilion, Beauesert Showground
15 October	9.00am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Albert Street, Beauesert
Victoria				
5-6 August	9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Stawell OS	Halls Gap Hall, Halls Gap
6-13 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mornington Pen. OS	Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
18-20 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	OSCOV Show	Collectors' Corner/Gardenworld, Springvale Road, Keaysborough
25-26 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Gippsland Orchid Club	Mid-Valley Plaza
27 August	9.00am-4.00pm		Winter Show	Princes Highway, Morwell
2 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Murray Valley OC	Scout Hall, Welsford Street, Shepparton
3 September	9.00am-3.00pm			
2 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Sale & District OC	St. Mary's Hall
3 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Orchid Show	cnr. Pearson and Macalister Streets, Sale
4-10 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mornington Pen. OS	Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
8 September	9.30am-4.30pm	Spring	South Gippsland OC	Town Hall, Baillieu Street, Wonthaggi
9 September	9.30am-3.00pm			
9-10 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Southern Suburbs OS	Senior Cit. Hall, cnr. Exley Drive/Nepean Highway, Moorabbin
9-10 September	TBA	Spring	Cym. Orchid Soc. Vic.	Town Hall, Ararat
9-10 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maribyrnong OS	Maribyrnong Community Hall
			Spring Show	Randall Street, Maribyrnong
16 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Bairnsdale & District Orchid	Lucknow Memorial Hall
17 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Group – Spring Show	Princes Highway, Lucknow (Bairnsdale)
16-September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	NE Melbourne OS	Bulleen Heights School, Pleasant Road, Bulleen
17 September	10.00am-4.00pm			
16 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Mid Murray Orchid Club	Memorial Hall
17 September	10.00am-3.30pm		Spring Show	Nolan Street, Kerang
16-17 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	West Gippsland Orchid Club	Anglican Hall
			Spring Show	Princes Way, Drouin
16-September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Horsham & District OS Inc	Horsham Town Hall
17 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Horsham Spring Orchid Show	Wilson Street, Horsham
21-23 September	9.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Stawell OS	Stawell Entertainment Centre
24 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Main Street, Stawell
23-24 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Melbourne Western OS	Racecourse (members' entrance), Bulban Road, Werribee
23-24 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Berwick OC	Senior Citizens' Hall, 112 High Street, Berwick
23 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maroondah OS	Blackburn High School Hall
24 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Williams Road, Blackburn
23-September	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Warrnambool Dist. OS	Warrnambool College Hall, Grafton Road, Warrnambool
24 September	10.00am-4.00pm			
23-24 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Australasian Native OS	Mt. Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
23-September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Goulburn Valley OC	Senior Citizens' Club Rooms, Welsford Street, Shepparton
24 September	9.00am-4.30pm			
30 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Ringwood OS	Maroondah College Hall, Brentnall Road, Croydon, Croydon
1 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
30 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	St. Arnaud OS	RSL Hall, St. Arnaud
1 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
30 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Gippsland Orchid Club	Lavalla College
1 October	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Kosciusko Street, Traralgon
30 September-	10.00am-4.30pm	Spring	Geelong Orchid & Indoor	Vines Road Community Centre
1 October			Plant Club – Spring Show	49 Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights
30 Sept-7 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mornington Pen. OS	Gateway Shopping Complex, Langwarrin
6 October	1.00pm-5.00pm	Spring	Bendigo Orchid Club	YMCA Leisure Centre
7 October	10.00am-5.00pm		Spring Show	Kangaroo Flat
8 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
7 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Melbourne Eastern OS	East Burwood Uniting Church Hall
8 October	Noon-4.30pm		'World of Orchids'	Cnr Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road (opp K-Mart)
7 October	9.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Warrigal OS	St Saua Community Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.00pm		Winter Show	212 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough
14 October	11.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Colac OC	Colac High School, Assembly Hall, Princes Highway, Colac West
15 October	10.30am-4.00pm			
20 October	2.00pm-5.00pm	Spring	Ballarat OS	SMB Horticultural Centre, cnr. Gillies and Gregory Streets, Ballarat
21 October	10.00am-5.00pm			
22 October	10.00am-4.00pm			

SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS
21-22 October	9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS	B. & T. Ferns, 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan, Silvan South
21 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS	Seville Public Hall
22 October	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Orchid Show	Warburton Highway, Seville
21 October	9.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Cobden & District OS	Civic Hall
22 October	9.30am-4.00pm			Victoria Street, Cobden
27-28 October	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Ararat OC	Town Hall, cnr. Vincent and Barkly Streets, Ararat
29 October	10.00am-4.00pm			
11-12 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maribyrnong OS - Sarcophilus Festival of Victoria - open show	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong

South Australia

6-12 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	South Australian Orchidaceous Club	Stockland Parabanks 68 John Street, Salisbury
26 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Riverland Orchid Club	Berri Senior Citizens Clubrooms
27 August	9.00am-4.00pm		Orchid Spectacular	Crawford Terrace, Berri
13-18 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Port Lincoln Orchid Club Port Lincoln Orchid Show	Kallinyalla Nursery Shaen Street, Port Lincoln
22 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Port Augusta Orchid Club	Garden Club Room
23 September	10.00am-2.00pm		Spring Show	Elizabeth Terrace, Port Augusta
24-30 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Gawler District Orchid Club G.D.O.C. Autumn Show	Centro Hollywood Shopping Centre cnr Winzor Road and Spains Road
24-30 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	South Australian Orchidaceous Club	Burnside Village Shopping Centre 447 Portrush Road, Glenside

Tasmania

29 September	2.00pm-6.00pm	Spring	Devonport OS	The Maidstone Park Memorial Hall
30 September	9.00am-6.00pm		Spring Show	Spreyton
1 October	9.00am-4.30pm			
6-8 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Launceston OS - Spring Show	The Silverdome, Prospect, Launceston
13 October	2.00am-5.30pm	Spring	Burnie OS	Braddon Hall
14 October	9.00am-5.00pm		Spring Show	Burnie Civic Centre
15 October	9.00am-4.00pm			
5 November	9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Devonport OS - Sarc. Show	Devonport Showground, Gunn Street Entrance

Western Australia

7-9 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Wanneroo OS Newpark Show	Newpark Shopping Centre Marrangaroo Drive, Girraween
15 September	Noon-5.00pm	Spring	Murray Bridge & Districts Orchid Club	Town Hall Bridge Street, Murray Bridge
16-17 September	10.00am-4.30pm			
16 September	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Augusta & Districts OS	Margaret River Cultural Centre
17 September	10.00am-3.00pm		Margaret River Annual Show	Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River
17-23 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	South Coast Orchid Club	Arndale Shopping Centre 470 Torrens Road, Kilkeny (front of Harris Scarfes)
28 September	8.30am-9.15pm	Spring	Bunbury OS	Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre
29-30 September	8.30am-4.30pm		Spring Show	Bunbury
5 October	Noon-9.00pm	Spring	Albany Orchid Society	North Road Shopping Centre
6 October	8.30am-6.00pm		Spring Show	North Road, Albany
7 October	8.00am-Noon			

New Zealand

26-27 August	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Capital City OS Spring Show	Begonia House, Botanic Gardens Thorndon, Wellington
9-10 September		Spring	Wellington OS & Hutt Hort. Soc Joint Spring Show	Lower Hutt Horticultural Hall
15 September	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Wairoa OS	Presbyterian-Methodist Hall
16 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Annual Show	Queen Street, Wairoa
15-16 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Levin & District OS Spring Show	Memorial Hall Chamberlin Street, Levin
15-16 September	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	New Zealand OS	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall
17 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	New North Road, Auckland
23-24 September	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hawkes Bay OS Spring Show	Hibernian Club Cnr Nelson & Eastbourne Streets, Hastings
23 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Manawatu OS	Community Leisure Centre
24 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	569 Ferguson Street, Palmerston North
23 September	11.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Waikato OS	Hamilton Gardens
24 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Cobham Drive, Hamilton
29 September	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Whangarei OS	Forum North
30 September	9.00am-4.30pm			Rust Avenue, Whangarei
1 October	10.00am-3.30pm			
30 September- 1 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Wairarapa Orchid Circle Spring Show	Masterton Town Hall Greytown
7 October	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Canterbury OS	Horticultural Centre
8 October	9.00am-4.30pm			Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch
14-15 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Wanganui OS "Orchids for Everyone"	Wanganui Memorial Hall Queens Park, Wanganui
28 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hawkes Bay OS Sarcophilus Show	Taradale Town Hall Taradale



Cymbidiums Australia

PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY INC.

Editor's Report

As *Cymbidium* growers in Australia today we are certainly spoilt for choice as we have so many quality plants available as mericlones and some of the best hybridisers in the world producing exciting new seedlings. Alongside the locally produced mericlones and seedlings we have access to some of the best cymbidiums from overseas being imported by many of our commercial nurseries to further expand the bewildering array of types, colours, and sizes available. Perhaps the only downside (if it can be considered a downside) is in terms of selection from such a wide and varied range, especially for new or less experienced *Cymbidium* growers.

In an attempt to provide a list of quality cymbidiums which would kick-start any collection two experienced growers from different states have compiled starting lists under the title "Sure-fire Cymbidiums" – Alec Canala from South Australia, and David Allen from Victoria – who have suggested a variety of cymbidiums proven to be robust, reliable, free-flowering and attractive and, perhaps just as importantly, available commercially. Any of their recommended plants should perform reliably in any part of the country where cymbidiums can reasonably be grown.

Terry Poulton provides us with an illustrated report of a trip he took to Europe with Moss Bray recently. Terry and Moss wanted to see Europe's major orchid show and ultimately experienced much more as well when Leon Van Rijn,

of Fleurijn Orchids-Holland, also took them to various nurseries and commercial flower auctions while they were on the continent.

David Allen has put together a "Six-pack" of seedlings he and Carolin have flowered over recent years. As hobby growers, they keep a mixed collection of mericlones, divisions and seedlings, and their article is evidence that if we grow some seedlings, then any of us can be lucky enough to get a few good ones.

Mutations during the mericlone process occasionally occur and, while some are ugly, others lead to peloric mutations of the flowers. Noe Smith shows us a peloric which was recently benched at a Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria meeting and which must be one of the prettiest pelorics yet seen.

To round out this issue Rob Smith completes his series on Australian Cymbidium Society judging guidelines with a look at show judging and outlining the process involved and describing how the judges tackle the job of selecting the best flowering plants, cut stems and displays at the national *Cymbidium* shows.

Speaking of national *Cymbidium* shows, as you read this, the 2006 National Cymbidium Show will only be a few weeks away. We hope to see you in Ararat for what we're sure will be another breathtaking, enjoyable and most successful national show.

Wishing you all good health and good growing...

Rob and Noe

HOW TO JOIN A CYMBIDIUM CLUB IN YOUR STATE

CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except December, January and February)

Meetings commence 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Lakemba Chapter Remembrance Hall, 220 Lakemba Street, Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W.

For further details contact

Secretary, Peter Moore, 10 Stephanie Street, Padstow, N.S.W. 2211

Phone: (02) 9721 0572
President, Geoff LeMarre, Phone: (02) 9449 9648

CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December and January)

Auditorium open from 7.00 p.m. —

Beginners' Group commences 7.20 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, Adelaide, S.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jeanne Hall,

18 Coorilla Avenue, Glenelg North, S.A. 5045

Phone: (08) 8294 5562

President, Ray Brady,

Phone: (08) 8252 3812

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except January and February)

Benching of plants commences 7.15 p.m.

Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Belmont Sports & Recreation Club,

Abernethy Rd, Belmont, W.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Dierdre Oliver,

35 Albert Road, Middle Swan, WA 6056

Phone: (08) 9274 2308

President, Helen Stretch

Phone: 0419 197 043

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January)

Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m. —

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre,

Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jennifer Robertson,

54 Worthing Road, Devon Meadows,

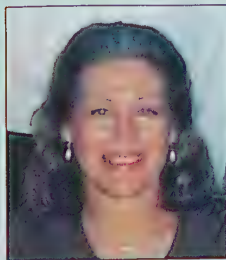
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Rob Smith



Cymbidium Six-Pack – Part One

Text by David and Carolin Allen. Photography by Rob Smith

We joined our first orchid club in 1984 and, like many new members, we had just a few cymbidiums. In fact, we had purchased a large flowering plant of *Cym. Citation 'Canary'* as a joint anniversary present a couple of years before we joined that club. The plant had five spikes on it when we brought it, but I was looking for the answer to that proverbial question, "Why won't my orchid flower?"

Our collection grew rapidly over the next five to six years and, as we became more involved with the club and in particular the showing of our plants, we found the mericlones were reliable producers for show purposes. However, it wasn't long before we noticed that everyone had the same plants so we decided to grow a small number of select seedlings as well. The following pictures and captions look at some of the seedlings we've flowered since 1996.

Oh, and by the way, our plant of *Cym. Citation 'Canary'* grew very well, eventually filling at 12-inch tub, but didn't flower again for us until after we finally broke it into several pieces. We gave most of those pieces away but those that we retained all flowered the following season. You win some and you lose some!

Cym. (Solana Beach x Pink Ice) = Strawberry Ice

This plant first flowered in September 1996 and it gave us great pleasure as it was the first time we had won Seedling of the Night at a Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria club meeting when it produced 15 flowers on a long arching spike. The large

flower was a nice blush but, unfortunately, like many of the *Cym. Solana Beach* progeny it did not hold its shape when the raceme was fully open. The plant made a very nice multi-spiked sales plant in 1999.

Cym. (Kiata x devonianum)

This miniature first flowered in time for a Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society show held in October 1997. It is still one of the mainstays in our miniature collection as it always wins a prize whenever it is shown. The plant regularly produces two spikes per bulb and the 15-plus flowers are nicely spaced along the raceme. This is a nice red pendulous miniature with a spotted labellum and white pollen cap.

Cym. (Sarah Jean x Pure Destiny) = Pure Sarah 'C & D'

I purchased two plants of this cross from the hybridiser, Brenton McGee of Pioneer Orchid Farm, in 2003. The mature plants were in 5-inch pots and I bought these plants for a number of reasons. The first was the fact that Brenton had a display of *Cym. Pure Sarah's* at the 2002 Ararat show and all of the seedlings were very consistent with the best being awarded. The plants I purchased had two growths per bulb and the new leads were well established and would, with a little luck, flower the following season. I repotted both plants into 7-inch pots and they grew well and did flower for me, with one going to be the Victorian nomination and eventual winner of the Intermediate Section of the SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition for 2004.

The next group of seedlings are all *Cym. Ruby Eyes* crosses. Carolin and I are both partial to these sorts of hybrids and we feel that you can't go wrong with *Cym. Ruby Eyes* as one parent of a crossing. Even the seedlings that do not make the show bench are keenly sought after on the sales table.

Cym. (Last Tango x Ruby Eyes) = Ruby Pendant

Hybridised by Dean Roesler, this is another nice red miniature cross that again won the Seedling of the Night for us at a Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria meeting. The plant regularly produces two pendulous spikes per bulb on a neatly compact plant. The blooms are a good deep red colour and has a nicely pink pollen cap, with a lip that sits well and doesn't roll under. This plant always catches the eyes of the judges when shown.

Cym. (Rotorua x Ruby Eyes) = Red Promise

Also hybridised by Dean Roesler, this interesting intermediate type *Cymbidium* is set for the red class at our shows. It has an upright spike habit coming from the *Cym. Rotorua* genes, and our plant first flowered for us in 2003 and was exhibited in October of that year at The Glen Shopping Centre show held by the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria.

Cym. (Brook Street x Ruby Eyes) 'Premium Red' = Ruby Brook

Hybridised by Andrew Easton, I have left what we consider our best for last. This



Cym. (Solana Beach x Pink Ice), first flowered in 1996.



Cym. (Last Tango x Ruby Eyes).



Cym. Pure Sarah 'C & D', seedling from a remake of this crossing. Winner of Best Intermediate in the SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition in 2004.



Cym. (Kiata x devonianum), a productive pendulous miniatur.

plant was a first flowering seedling in 2003 and, like every good flower, it has a story. I was given the plant by Jan and Andy Leamon in 2001 from a small compot of about eight plants growing in his hobby shade house. I was working for Jan and Andy at the time and was given a choice of one plant after noticing, and envying, the rich red colour in all of the bulbs on all these seedlings. The plant was first shown in the middle of October at the Yarra Valley Orchid Society's spring show, and carried four spikes of 20-plus flowers per spike in a 7-inch pot. Unfortunately, only one raceme had open flowers at the time of the show but it still went on to be selected as Best Seedling of the show. Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids approached us and we arrangements for it to be mericlone, with Clive requesting that we provide a suitable name and apply for registration with the Royal Horticultural Society which was subsequently accepted (with the permission of the hybridiser) and we are looking forward to raising some of the mericlones produced.

We have found that growing seedlings is an exciting and interesting way to enhance both the quality of our *Cymbidium* collection and the enjoyment of our hobby.

David and Carolin Allen
18 Wootten Crescent, Langwarrin, Victoria 3910



Cym. (Brook Street x Ruby Eyes) 'Premium Red'. Winner of Best Miniature in the SAGE Horticultural Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition in 2003.



Cym. (Rotorua x Ruby Eyes).



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*Cym.
Joy Raye
'Hot Lips'*

- A. *Cym. Autumn Pride 'Lightening'* – Red
- B. *Cym. Boz 'No. 1'* – Red
- C. *Cym. Darch Joy 'Little Toy'* – Deep Pink
- D. *Cym. Del's Delight 'Kapanui Gold'* – Yellow
- E. *Cym. Doris Butler 'Mum'* – Red
- F. *Cym. Gigli 'Lansdale Gold'* – Yellow
- G. *Cym. Iceburg 'Dainty Lady'* – White

- H. *Cym. Joy Raye 'Future Dream'* – Pink
- I. *Cym. Joy Raye 'Hot Lips'* – Pink
- J. *Cym. Melissa Ann 'Moving Sand'* – Cream
- K. *Cym. Pink Diamond 'Lucky Dip'* – Pink
- L. *Cym. William Jones 'Velvet Touch'* – Red
- M. *Cym. (Wyalong x Ruby Eyes) 'Hot Embers'* – Red

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Cym. Without Peer 'No Cap'

Text by Noe Smith –
Photography by Rob Smith



I admit to having a liking for novelty and peloric cymbidiums, although I accept that for many *Cymbidium* growers they are something of a "love them or hate them" proposition.

A number of peloric cymbidiums have been the result of a mutation taking place during the mericlone process, with either the petals or ventral sepals mutating to become reflections of the flower's labellum – as is the case with this *Cymbidium*, shown at the July meeting of the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria.

Local grower and COSV member, Andy Tran, who benched the plant – a mericlone mutation of the very pretty *Cym. Without Peer* 'Soft Touch' – named it 'No Cap' due to the flowers having no anther cap covering the pollen as is normal for cymbidiums.

While it can be difficult to describe some peloric flowers as beautiful I think, in this case, most people would find this flower attractive. The lovely soft pink/mauve tones of 'Soft Touch' have been retained and the petals have become broad and softly marked copies of the flower's labellum, making this *Cymbidium* flower rather reminiscent of a cocktail *Cattleya*.

It will be interesting to see if this mutation proves to be stable over future flowerings but, hopefully, it will because it is just so pretty. ■

Noe Smith

24 William Hunter Court
Rosebud, Victoria 3939

The Principles of ACS Judging Explained – Part Three

Show Judging

by Rob Smith

In the past two issues of Cymbidiums Australia we've looked at Australian Cymbidium Society judging as it relates to the general principles and philosophy of the ACS system (Part One), and to award judging (Part Two). In this issue the topic is show judging (Part Three) for *Cymbidium* flowers, cut stems, and displays, and concludes this series.

Beginning with the judging of flowering plants, the judges job is to identify the best examples presented at a show, initially within their colour and size classes and, ultimately, by a process of comparison and elimination to arrive at the best examples overall from the total number of plants exhibited. Perhaps the easiest way to describe how this happens in practice is to go through to process step by step.

Initially, before the judges even begin to look at the plants and flowers, the show Registrar(s) will allocate the judges present into panels usually consisting of three

or four judges depending upon the numbers available and consideration will be given to a variety of factors when doing this. As much as possible the Registrar(s) will try to ensure that panels consist of a mix of judges from each state *Cymbidium* club and, where possible, make sure that judges are not judging classes where they may have large numbers of their own plants entered. Of course there are times when this situation is unavoidable and the accepted practice is then for the judge concerned to not only to excuse themselves from the judging of their own plants, but that they will also not identify which plants are theirs.

At national *Cymbidium* shows it can often be the case that among the judges for that show there may be a number of experienced "guest" judges included in the panels who have been recruited from the local and international visitors present and who may not be ACS judges. If that is the

case, then those guest judges are well informed of the specific rules and values of the ACS system prior to participating in the judging of that show's exhibits.

Once the panels have been formed, the judges names will be called, panel by panel, and they are given the list of the classes that have been assigned to them, along with the voting and result sheets for each class. Also, prior to judging commencing, the Registrar(s) will address the assembled judges to inform them of any specific points they may be required to pay particular attention to during the process.

Firstly, the panels will judge the colour and size classes that have been allocated to them – for example, large flower types in the white, pink, green and yellow classes. Once the judges have decided upon which is the best large flower type in each of the colour classes allocated to them, the process to compare the candidates and select the overall best flower is then conducted.

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The next step is to combine with the panel(s) judging the other colour classes in that particular size range to look at the best they have each decided upon to jointly select the overall best for that particular size class. At any point in the judging process, the problems of tied decisions, or questions about rules and interpretations, etcetera, will be resolved by calling upon the Registrar(s) to provide any answers or the casting vote.

Once all the panels have identified the best in the various colour classes, and best overall has been determined in those size classes, then the judges are called together to view all the bests from the size classes and various special classes (seeding, specimen, etcetera) to vote upon the champions of show.

Judging the champions of show is usually the most difficult part of the process as comparisons and value judgements have to be made as to the merits of, for example, a single-spiked large flower type versus a miniature type specimen perhaps carrying 30 spikes of flowers. All judges will view the exhibits under consideration and privately make their own assessment of the various merits of the exhibits taking into account flower form, colour, floriferousness, spike habit, culture, and presentation, etcetera. Each judge will then write down

their decision on a voting slip and the results are tallied to determine each winner.

In general this has been proven to be a very efficient and fair system although, of course, not everyone (or, obviously, every judge) will agree on the outcome – but then, we aren't dealing with clear cut situations. Orchid judging is, by its nature, a value judgement albeit assisted by rules and guidelines, and it is not like measuring the longest throw or the fastest time. In the end we have to put our trust in the experience and knowledge of the judges to make informed and dispassionate decisions in line with the developed judging rules and philosophy.

The judging of cut stems, while being essentially the same process as that applied to judging flowering plants, obviously has some difficulties associated with it simply because of the state or size of the plant the stem was cut from cannot be assessed by the judges. This means that judgements as to floriferousness, quality of culture, or presentation cannot be the same as those applied to flowering plants. The judges have no way of knowing whether the cut stems before them came from large mature plants bearing only one, or a dozen, spikes – or if they were cut from immature first flowering seedlings or

small divisions. Therefore, only the flower form, colour, flower spacing, spike habit, etcetera, can be considered. This is primarily why cut stems are judged separately from flowering plants.

Displays are an important feature of many orchid shows, particularly the National Cymbidium Show. Displays add an extra (and exciting) visual dimension to our shows beyond the beauty of the flowers exhibited. Generally displays fall into two types – those where the flowers and plants are the main focus, and those commonly called theme or artistic displays where the use of props and accessories add an extra dimension to the plant display.

When judging a display, the judges charged with the task will consider the quality and culture of the flowering plants, how they are arranged, and the overall balance and visual impact of the display. These qualities are assessed and allocated values are applied to these aspects on voting slips.

In the case of theme or artistic displays, the same factors which are considered important for all displays will be assessed and further judgements will also be made in addition – these include the originality of the theme, the use of props, the overall appearance of the display, and the harmonious combination of flowers, plants and props. Exhibitors who stage displays will nominate them for inclusion in the various display classes provided in the show schedule based on the size of the display and whether it is a theme/artistic type display or not.

This article concludes the three part series explaining various aspects of judging at a national show under the Australian Cymbidium Society's rules and guidelines and I hope that any questions you may have had regarding this subject have been answered for you.

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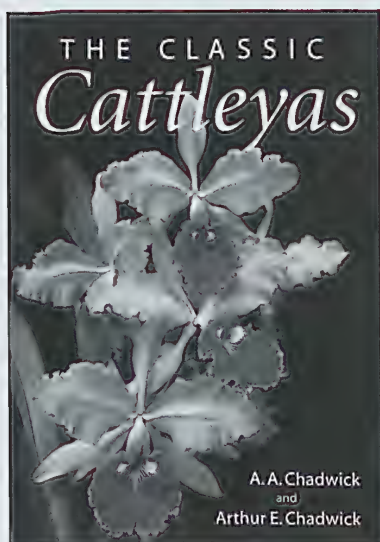
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The Classic Cattleyas
by A.A. Chadwick and
Arthur E. Chadwick
252 pp. 270mm x 195mm Hardcover.
Published by Timber Press,
Portland USA.
ISBN-10 0-88192-764-3
Available from *Orchidaceous Books*
books@orchidaceousbooks.com.au
AUD\$89.50

In 1818, William Cattley bloomed one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas, the large flowered types, are the classic cattleyas. In this book each classic *Cattleya* species, as defined by the authors, is described in detail. It needs to be emphasised that this is not a taxonomic work (and does not pretend to be) and does not cover all of the 50 or so recognised *Cattleya* species and that also was not the intent of this book. This classification was adequately covered in the first volume by Carl Withner, published in 1988. Basically the father and son Chadwick team from Virginia, USA have defined "classic cattleyas" as all of the large flowered *Cattleya* species, as well as the large flowered Brazilian *Laelia* species, with cattleya-like blooms (such as *L. purpurata* and *L. tenebrosa*). Six such *Laelia* species are described as cattleyas in this work in a chapter titled "The Orphanage – The Brazilian *Laelia*/Cattleya".

This is a very slick and polished publication. In all, 23 different species are described (including the six "laelias" as mentioned above) and this forms the main part of the book. The descriptions are very thorough and detail the history of the species and its variation as well as the impact it has had in hybridising. There are also personalised in depth cultural notes for each described species will lots of tips on how to get the best out of these Central and South American epiphytes. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilizing, propagation are among the topics covered.

A.A. Chadwick has been growing orchids for over 60 years and has specialised in

Cattleya species and their hybrids. Over the years he has written many authoritative articles for the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* and later *Orchids*. His son Art has followed his fathers' footsteps and now manages the family nursery business and is a frequent lecturer throughout the USA on cattleyas. I was fortunate to meet Art in October 2005, when we were both invited speakers (with Joyce Stewart, Ken Roberts and Alex Hirtz) to the South Florida Orchid Society's annual speaker's day.

The first couple of chapters discuss part of the romance of cattleyas and their history in Europe and the United States. Another outstanding chapter is devoted to the hybrids that have been created and are so important to both the cut flower and pot plant trade. There is a wealth of cultural information, with detailed discussion on growing, repotting and dividing cattleyas. Pests, diseases and environmental problems are also examined.

The photography is first class, and depicts in many cases a range of horticulturally superior forms of the species. Often different colour forms are also shown. The quality of the hybrid photos is also most impressive and it is clear that the authors have not only their cultural practices fine tuned, but they also have some outstanding plants to work with.

The *Classic Cattleyas* finally fills the niche for those who have a penchant for these bold but delicate fragrant flowers. I recommend this book to all growers of cattleyas and those interested in Central and South American species orchids.

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AOR 003

Masdevallias: Gems of the Orchid World
by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons

298 pp. 260mm x 200mm Hardcover.

Published by Timber Press,
Portland USA.

ISBN-10 0-88192-737-6

Available from Orchidaceous Books
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A book such as this has been long overdue, the first serious text devoted to the new world genus *Masdevallia*. Let me tell you first hand, the wait has been worth it. This is the first complete reference about these orchids, an inspiring tribute to their beauty and a practical guide to their care. This book offers detailed advice on all aspects of this genus and their successful culture.

The authors are both from California, USA. Mary Gerritsen is an accomplished cell biologist who has a passion for masdevallias and a varied group of orchids in cultivation. Ron Parsons is well known to readers of the *AOR* for his outstanding world-class photography. Ron has a photographic memory and encyclopaedic knowledge for almost everything botanical and has a special interest in masdevallias and other members of the *Pleurothallidinae*. Ron has an enormous slide library from which to select the 150 full colour photographs used in this book, mostly of



species but with a mix of various hybrids. He also grows a significant number of masdevallias in his live collection.

The book is extremely well laid out on high quality paper, covering basically everything you would wish to know about masdevallias. The chapter topics include an introduction to the genus, history, form and function, cultivation, propagation and hybridisation, what's in a name, exhibiting masdevallias, related genera, subclassification of *Masdevallia* plus a

full list of registered hybrids (to 2004) and a complete list of described species with their countries of origin and suggested growing conditions.

The main part of the book is devoted to the descriptions of the more popular and spectacular species in cultivation. Some 110 species are treated (out of a catalogue of some 400+ different taxa) thereby covering about a quarter of the known species. Excellent photographs are presented adjacent to the text (always a preferred option with monographs) and where there are variable species often more than one image is shown. Apart from the images, there are also 32 line drawings (mostly by Carlyle Luer) showing the main characters of the various sections within the genus. There are also two distribution maps.

Many of the photographed plants have been cultivated by some of the finest orchid growers in the San Francisco region (with the Bay Area being an ideal climate for most *Masdevallia* species). Some of these expert growers include Steve Beckendorf, Anna Chai, John Leathers, Dan Newman, Tom Perlite, Gerardus Staal, Walter Teague and Marni Turkel.

This is a must have book for *Masdevallia* growers and enthusiasts plus those interested in miniature orchid species that come in a plethora of shapes, styles and colours. It is also required reading for orchid judges and students. *Masdevallias* truly are the gems of the orchid world.

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A visit to Fleurijn Orchids – Holland

Text and photography
by Terry Poulton

European winter – sunrise just after a snow shower and the glass house boiler is working hard.

Leon Van Rijn of Fleurijn Orchids-Holland has been a regular visitor to Australia during our flowering season for quite a few years now and, in that time, he has not only become a valued supporter of the National Cymbidium Show through his naming rights sponsorship and the Patron of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia, but he has also become a good and valued friend to many *Cymbidium* growers here.

Because of that friendship, and his typical generosity, I was delighted although not surprised when Leon offered to become "tour guide" and host when I visited Europe with Moss Bray to see the World Orchid Conference and visit some nurseries over there.

Winter is probably not the ideal time to visit Europe and we

saw our fair share of rain, fog, overcast cold days, and even a little snow, but that's when the cymbidiums are in flower and the northern hemisphere shows are on. The weather over there proves that Melbourne winters are not so bad after all, at least by comparison.

Our trip began with our arrival at Venice airport where we are met by Leon and then went straight to Padua, the host city for the World Orchid Conference. We had three days in Padua, two of which we spent at the WOC and one visiting Venice (a subject for another time). On the fourth day we travelled with Leon to Holland where we spent a total of seven days with a one day dash to the United Kingdom on our third day with Leon.

Old type glass houses are on the left and the new ones are on the right.





Recently planted cell tray with cymbidiums in coconut fibre. Inset: Root growth on a *Cymbidium* from the cell trays.



Cym. Tracey Bullion 'Voadams Girl'.

While at Leon's we were taken to visit the massive Flora-Holland commercial flower sales complex, an operation on a scale it's almost impossible to describe – literally millions of cut stems and plants must pass through the complex each day.

Leon also took us to the laboratory he is a partner of and it is a very efficient state of the art facility producing mainly cymbidiums and paphiopedilums for their own, and other, nurseries.

While looking through Leon's own nursery, we were pleased to see that a number of Australian cymbidiums were performing well as commercial plants under Leon's conditions. David Keanelly's *Cym. Hypno Beauty* 'Gorgeous', from the very successful Bryants crossing *Cym. (Red Beauty x Khan Flame)*, were in flower while we were there. Leon had obtained exclusive rights to the plant in an agreement with David after seeing the orchid in Australia. I was pleased to see of my own cymbidiums flowering for Leon too, *Cym. Lemon Butter* 'T. P.' appears to like the conditions in Leon's climate-controlled glass houses. Another of my cymbidiums, *Cym. Granny Smith* 'T. P.' was there in numbers, but not in flower as their spikes had already been cut and sold before we arrived. Leon had seen the plant at an Ararat show some years ago and has trialed its growth in Holland and now has it in production. Leon's father, Wim, tells me it is his favourite *Cymbidium*.



120mm pots are watered by drippers. **Inset:** Elastic is tied to new spikes as soon as possible (note the four spikes from one bulb).

I won't spend much time describing Leon's nursery as that has been covered in previous articles in the AOR's *Cymbidium* Australia section, but there were a few things of interest we noticed while on this visit.

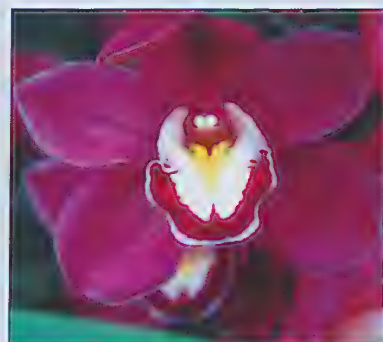
Firstly, I noticed that Leon is now growing his small and newly deflasked plants in coconut fibre (although his mature plants are grown in perlite), and Leon's laboratory partner, Art, also grows all of his plants in coconut fibre. The growth Leon is getting is encouraging with excellent root systems developing, to the point where many small plants are being pushed up out of their pots. Newly planted out cymbidiums are grown in cell trays and each individual plant is potted up against the pot's side. The reasoning behind this method is that experience has shown that the roots of centrally potted plants grow to the sides anyway so potting them there in the first place is believed to get them going more quickly. Tests in Australia are showing that this method works just as well here, with superior growth being seen on the young plants we potted this way were compared to those potted normally. It is little things like this which may help in improving *Cymbidium* culture and which can help us all. People such as Leon, who grow their cymbidiums in such a tough and competitive commercial environment need to look for continual improvements to stay ahead of the pack, and their successful experiments and observations



A *Cym. Blazing Fury* seedling in flower.



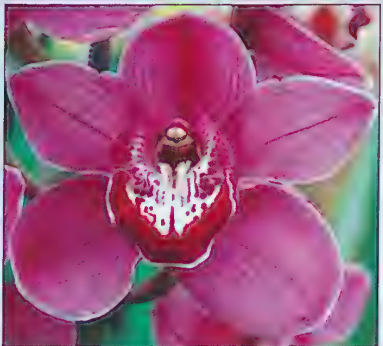
Cym. Alice Anderson 'Fortyniner'.



A Cym. Blazing Fury seedling in flower.



Cym. Lumines.



Leon's trial of Cym. Hypno Beauty 'Gorgeous'.



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Cym. Rembrandt 'Masterpiece'. Inset: Another *Cym. Blazing Fury* seedling.



Recently picked spikes on a monorail system.



Block of plants for pink standard cut stems. **Inset:** Leon Van Rijn and young Leon junior.

can be applied to how we hobbyists and commercial growers grow our own plants.

It seems benefits flow both ways as we can all obviously learn from each other, and the exchange of plants (some of Leon's plants are now being grown and trialed in Australia) mean variety in increased and new genetic material become available in Holland, and in Australia. Some quarter of a million mericlones for Leon's nursery here have been produced by Sims Orchids, Paulines Laboratory Service and Valley Orchids, with some we saw already having been potted into 100mm pots at Leon's.

Unfortunately our trip was all too short and, before we knew it, we were heading to the airport for our trip home to Australia. The hospitality shown to us by Leon and his family helped make the trip something special and Moss and I were both very grateful for the time and trouble taken during the busy time of their peak flowering season.

Fortunately we'll soon be able to return the hospitality as Leon will again be in Australia for the National Cymbidium Show at Ararat this year, and for which he is again the naming rights sponsor and will also be sponsoring and judging his special class for cut flower type cymbidiums.

Terry Poulton
33 Anne Road
Scoresby, Victoria 3179



Cym. Nevada.

Sure-Fire Cymbidiums

Text by Alec Canala and David Allen – photography by various persons.

While the “Mediterranean” climate experienced in most of South Australia, particularly the Adelaide area, might not be considered ideal for *Cymbidium* growing, South Australia has nevertheless proven to one of the major *Cymbidium* centres of Australia and, with a little care taken to provide adequate shade, water, and humidity in summer, *Cymbidium* growers can be most successful.

Among the cymbidiums that have proven themselves (in SA and in other Australian states), I have found the following plants to be worthy of consideration for any collection and, although there are also many others add, these plants are among those which most readily spring to mind and provide the qualities I would say describe a sure-fire *Cymbidium*.

Beginning with a large flower type, *Cym.* Valley Splash ‘Awesome’ is hard to go past. This *Cymbidium* has been proven over many years and is still a regular winner at shows when presented well. It grows well in just about any *Cymbidium* growing area around Australia. A moderately-sized plant of ‘Awesome’ will produce several flower spikes with good numbers of attractive pastel-blushed flow-



Cym. Plush Canyon ‘Red Eye’.

ers in pink over white. There are quite a number of other good varieties from this highly successful Valley Orchids hybrid that are also well worth growing, including ‘Painted Lady’, ‘Red Spot’ and ‘Touch of Pink’.

Also in the large flower range, *Cym.* Kurralta Park ‘Tennyson’ is a robust grower and good flowerer. It carries full-shaped dark pink/red blooms and can put on quite a show once the plant develops some size. *Cym.* Kurralta Park was bred by a local Adelaide grower, Murray Weston, from the crossing *Cym.* (Chocolada x Yowie Flame).

Pure colour type cymbidiums have a lot of appeal for many growers. Also called album, a pure colour has no red pigment in its genes. I can recommend the Geyserland Orchids bred *Cym.* Beau Guest ‘Glen’ as a proven grower that can do well on the show bench. In fact, Sims Orchids of South Australia won Champion Small Standard Flower with this *Cymbidium* at the 2005 National Cymbidium Show. ‘Glen’ can produce tall stems with good numbers of attractive green and yellow flowers.

Another particularly good pure colour that has been around a while is *Cym.*

Sleeping Nymph. There are a number of

Editor’s Note

These days there is a bewildering variety of cymbidiums available in all flower sizes, types, and colour combinations, and we are certainly spoiled for choice. But how does a grower new to cymbidiums, or someone wishing to expand their collection, decide on which plants to select?

While taking the names of plants we see at *Cymbidium* shows or club meetings is one common method, how is a new or inexperienced grower to know

how well such plants will perform?

Are they difficult subjects made to look good by the cultural and presentation skills of a good grower, or will they perform well for anyone given adequate care and attention?

The following plants have been recommended by two experienced and successful growers as sure-fire *Cymbidium* plants which are proven performers that are capable of good growth, reliable flowering, and other desirable properties which will reward

any grower from the novice to the expert. While many of the plants listed are capable of winning on the show bench, they all possess the qualities required to make them ideal additions to any *Cymbidium* collection, and will reward their owners with plenty of attractive flowers. They are also plants capable of performing well across the variety of climates experienced by *Cymbidium* growers in Australia and should be available as mericlones from nurseries, or from other growers.



Top: *Cym. Valley Splash* 'Awesome'.



Left: *Cym. Kimberley Meadows* 'Green Beret'.

Below: *Cym. Valley Splash* 'Painted Lady'.



good varieties such as 'Perfection' and 'New Generation' among others. All are good growers and produce essentially upright spikes of flowers generally in the green to white tones. Valley Orchids produces this pure colour cross, along with many others in green, yellow and white.

A classy white flower that has been proven to perform well in all areas is *Cym. Anna Szabo* 'Geyserland'. Again an orchid from New Zealand's Geyserland Orchids, *Cym. Anna Szabo* has its shapely pure white flowers highlighted by red-banded lips. While the flowers aren't huge, they are shapely and produced in good numbers of tall stems and this is a strong-growing plant that produces plenty of them.

Another *Cymbidium* from Geyserland Orchids is the red intermediate-sized flower type *Cym. Cherry Cola* 'Geyserland'. This is a strong grower that produces upright stems of attractive red blooms with distinctive lips. An easy plant to grow and flower, it can do well when shown and needs very little attention to get it looking good. It will happily flower on small plants and gives more flower stems as it puts on size.

Although now over 30 years old, the classic *Cym. Sarah Jean* 'Ice Cascade' remains a must have *Cymbidium* and is probably found in nearly every collection in Australia. *Cym. Sarah Jean* is an ideal miniature flowering type – the plants are compact-growing, vigorous and make perfect hanging-pot specimens. The flower stems cascade down around the pot and a well-grown plant in a 200mm (8-inch) pot can carry enough stems to completely curtain the pot it's growing in. 'Ice Cascade' has white flowers that are almost pure colour with just a slightest hint of pink dusting on the lips. It is a very pretty orchid as well as being a successful show orchid, even after 30 years. There are also numerous other *Cym. Sarah Jean*'s worth growing as well as 'Ice Cascade', such as the pure colour green 'Jennifer' that is also a popular show *Cymbidium*. Across the grex colours range from white to green with a few yellows and even a soft apricot one call 'Pink Peach'. None of the *Cym. Sarah Jean*'s will disappoint. ■

Alec Canala
117 Smart Road
Modbury, South Australia 5092

While Melbourne's climate exposes cymbidiums to colder winter temperatures and less sunlight during the flowering season, all of the cymbidiums recommended by in this article also perform well here. Along with those, I would single out the following cymbidiums.

A couple of large flower types worth

growing and that come from Kimberley Orchids are *Cym.* Khan Flame 'Tuscany', a fine example of the successful Khan Flame grex originally made by Bryants Orchids. 'Tuscany' carries large red/brown flowers on strong upright spikes and is a good grower and flowerer. While a proven show bench winner, it's a most attractive orchid to add to any collection, whether shown or not.

The other Kimberley Orchids large flower type is *Cym.* Kimberley Meadows 'Green Beret', possibly one of the best greens currently available. It produces tall spikes with plenty of appealing shapely blooms and has had many show wins, and an AM/COSV award, to its name.

Also in the large flower type green range is the classic *Cym.* Valley Zenith 'Green Orb', possibly the best of this famous Valley Orchids cross, and still a top green and very productive too. Other popular varieties include 'Discus' and 'Top Spot'.

Also carrying green flowers is the intermediate *Cym.* Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'. A very floriferous and strong-growing *Cymbidium*, 'Bon Bon' will also do well on the show bench when well grown, and it also produces plenty of



Cym. Pumisan 'Cooksbridge'.

flowers to be enjoyed whether it is shown or not.

Cym. Kibry Lesh. There are a number of varieties of this grex around that are well worth growing. The colours range from white to pink, many of them with varying amounts of red spotting over the petals and

sepals. The cross was made by Andrew Easton of New Zealand.

There aren't a lot of orange-coloured cymbidiums, but one worth looking for is *Cym.* Pumisan 'Cooksbridge' (or 'Orange', but they are generally considered to be the same variety). This



Cym. Cherry Cola 'Geyserland'.



Cym. Beau Guest 'Glen'.



Cym. Sleeping Nymph 'New Generation'.

Cymbidium is a good grower and will produce plenty of shapely orange/amber flowers with attractive red-banded labellums.

Cym. One Tree Hill 'John's Quest', another Andrew Easton hybrid that has been a most successful crossing with several desirable varieties available. All

carry intermediate-sized yellow blooms, some with red-banded labellums, some pure colours. Others worth looking for are the varieties 'Beenak' and 'Dolly' (and Alec Canala recommends 'Doris' as a quick grower that can produce lots of flower spikes). All the *Cym. One Tree*

Hill's are pretty good growers and flowerers.

Cym. Warringah Claret 'Poppy King' is a compactly growing *Cymbidium* that produces upright spikes of perky dark pink flowers. Bred from *Cym. (Jessie Blakiston x Kiata)*, this crossing produced a number of attractive small flowered varieties. Flower size is generally around the top end of the miniature range and the bottom end of the intermediate size class (about 55-60mm across). Other good varieties of this grex include 'Bianca Day' and 'Kelly Lee'. All are compact in plant size, are good growers and reliable flowerers. The colours range from bright pink to deep purple/red, and all with red-banded labellums.

Cym. Plush Canyon. This true miniature hybrid is from *Cym. devonianum*, a striking species with pendulous spikes carrying lots of green to tan flowers with striking solid red labellums. The *Cym. Plush Canyon's* are heavily influenced by the parent species and carry plenty of spikes with abundant flowers. Petals and sepals are generally tan to amber coloured with red/brown spotting or striping, and are very appealing. The heavily red-marked labellums add highlights. There are a num-



Cym. Khan Flame 'Tuscany'.



Cym. One Tree Hill 'Doris'.



Cym. Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'.



Cym. Ruby Valley 'Hooly Dooly'.

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Like Alec, I highly recommend *Cym. Sarah Jean* 'Ice Cascade', and just about any other *Cym. Sarah Jean* – all are very rewarding cymbidiums to grow. ■

David Allen
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Australian Orchid Review

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The Official Publication of the Orchid Society of
New South Wales, the Victorian Orchid Club and
the Australian Cymbidium Society.

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Published and printed by

GRAPHIC WORLD
A.B.N. 27 003 714 967

14 McGill Street, Lewisham, NSW 2049
Australia.
Phone: (02) 9560 6166
Fax: (02) 9560 6677

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18-20 August 2006 –
St Ives Orchid Fair, St Ives, NSW

18-20 August 2006 –
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Orchid Spectacular,
Keysborough, Victoria

7-10 September 2006 –
Australian Springtime Flora Festival,
Mt Penang, NSW

22-24 September 2006 –
Hunter Wetlands Orchid Festival,
Shortland, NSW

8 October 2006 – Hills District Orchids
Open Day, Northmead, NSW

13-15 October 2006 –
Southern Orchid Spectacular,
Cronulla, NSW

4-5 November 2006 –
Tweed Orchid Fair, Tweed Heads, NSW

3 December 2006 –
Easy Orchids Open Day,
Northmead, NSW

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Grower: Royale Orchids (NSW). Photo: Graham Jackson (NZ).